



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Security, Civilian Affairs Committees Meet in Taba

Palestinian Negotiator on Security Issues

NC1502165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Taba, 15 Feb (MENA)—Hasan 'Asfur, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Security Committee, has stated that the two sides have narrowed the gap in their viewpoints and are now close to reaching an agreement on the Palestinian Police Force. He said he hoped such an agreement would be signed in the next 24 hours.

Following two rounds of talks in Taba today, 'Asfur said the differences between the two delegations concern numbers more than principles. They are differences about the size of the police force and the type of weapons. He stressed that these differences are not substantial. He added: We will continue to discuss these issues and we hope we will reach agreement in the next 24 hours.

'Asfur said that a timetable for the gradual release of Palestinian detainees is expected to be discussed this evening.

General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation, said the talks have made progress. He hinted that an agreement might be signed by the end of the week and added: I believe we can give details in this regard by the end of the week. [passage omitted]

'Asfur said the arming of the Palestinian police force is still under discussion. He added that the Israeli side has agreed in principle for the Palestinian police to use armored cars, noting that the number of these vehicles and armored personnel carriers is currently being discussed with the Israeli delegation.

He pointed out that the current controversy over the size of the Palestinian police force is whether the number should be 10,000 or 6,000. He said there is a possibility of resolving this issue, which is primarily technical.

He said that the issue of joint patrols will be discussed within the Joint Coordination and Cooperation Committee as of tomorrow morning, Wednesday. He added that the Palestinian delegation requested the institution of coastal guard patrols, noting that the Israeli side does not object to this in principle. He added that the dispute is over the number of the patrol members and stressed the need for Palestinian police on the Mediterranean coast.

'Asfur, deputy head of the Palestinian side of the Palestinian-Israeli Security Committee, said the Palestinian detainees in the Golan and in Israeli prisons will be discussed this evening. He expressed his hope that all

issues concerning the release of Palestinian detainees according to a clear timetable will be addressed.

He added: We already have an Israeli stand [mawqif] on the release of the detainees. He affirmed the need to reach agreement on a timetable for the release of all detainees by July, in time for the Palestinian council elections due that month.

He pointed out that the Palestinian side had previously proposed a complete timetable for the detainees' release in groups, on condition that all the detainees, who number over 9,000, be freed without exception. He stressed the need to free all the detainees, including those arrested after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord on 13 September.

It is noteworthy that the Palestinian side demands that there be 9,000 in the Palestinian police force. It also demands that this force be divided up after civilian authority is transferred to the Palestinians into a police unit belonging to the Palestinian Public Security Department—a unit that will provide security for personnel and property—plus a national security force to be stationed on the borders with Israel, and a Palestinian civil defense unit that will include first aid, fire department, and rescue squads.

Sha'th: 'Great Progress' Achieved

NC1502220294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2057 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Taba, 15 Feb (MENA)—The head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, said the Palestinian and Israeli delegations are working continuously, positively, and successfully but are not ready to announce agreement on the Palestinian police force. He added that the delegation reached agreement on joint security coordination and cooperation.

In statements to journalists at the conclusion of the second day of negotiations in the current round of talks in Taba, he announced that the two sides revised a draft joint agreement based on Palestinian and Israeli draft papers and that the joint draft had been sent to the leadership in Jerusalem and Tunis.

Sha'th affirmed that genuine progress was made in the past two days of talks but denied that the two sides would sign an agreement tomorrow or in the next hours. He noted that they achieved great progress.

He said: The talks are progressing continuously but nothing more; in other words, there are no problems blocking agreement. He added: At the same time, we have not reached the stage of making the pleasant announcement that all our difficulties are now behind us.

He explained that the two sides are awaiting answers from their leadership and that a spirit of optimism prevails over the negotiations on the Palestinian and the Israeli side.

He noted that work has been completed on security cooperation and coordination between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. He remarked that numerous issues remain unresolved, such as security measures on land, at sea, and on coasts as well as a timetable for a phased Israeli withdrawal on specific dates. He said that these issues include the transfer of civilian authority that must be concluded and a (general amnesty) for the Palestinian detainees. He affirmed that if things proceed the way they did today, these issues will not take much time.

He said the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, through the Security Affairs Committee, held a preliminary discussion of the Palestinian detainees issue and that a meeting will be held tomorrow morning between General (Admon Ahjon) and Muhammad Ramlan to continue the discussion. He affirmed the importance of a timetable to release the detainees, which should include in principle all those who contributed to the struggle against occupation.

He said: We reached agreement to halt violence between the two sides. A general amnesty should cover both the Palestinians and Israelis. He noted that there are also Israeli soldiers who have been punished for acts of murder they committed without permission from the Israeli authorities and who were imprisoned. They too must be freed, he remarked. He explained that the general amnesty must cover all those who participated in violence.

He said that most Palestinian detainees are those who took part in the intifadah and stressed that the timetable for their release should not go beyond 13 July.

Sha'th denied that cooperation and coordination between the Palestinian and Israeli sides will be at the expense of the Hamas Movement. He said this kind of talk destroys confidence and that we need a country where we can spread peace among the people of the same homeland and the enemies of yesterday. He added that you cannot make peace with the enemies of yesterday only to establish animosity with the brothers of today and tomorrow.

Negotiations between the two sides are scheduled to resume tomorrow, Wednesday.

Civil Affairs Committee Ends Meeting

NC1502220494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli Civilian Affairs Committee ended its meetings today. The committee discussed issues concerning communications, including the establishment of Palestinian radio and television.

Committees Resume Meetings

NC1602114894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Taba, 16 Feb (MENA)—The Security and Civilian Affairs Committees for the Palestinian-Israeli

negotiations to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement resumed meetings in Taba today in an atmosphere of optimism among members of both delegations.

General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff and chairman of the Israeli delegation to the talks, has stated that the two sides are discussing the items on the agenda to reach an integrated agreement on the various issues pertaining to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

After arriving in Taba this morning, Shahaq said that no agreement will be signed regarding the Palestinian police force but an exhaustive agreement will be signed once negotiations are concluded.

MENA has learned that the Civilian Affairs Committee has been divided into two subcommittees. The basic committee is cochaired by the lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi and General Gadi Zohar, the official in charge of the civilian administration in the West Bank. It is discussing the transfer of authority over electricity and civilian planning.

The subcommittee on communications is cochaired by Radwan Abu-Ayyash, head of the Palestinian radio and television authority, and Shlomo Fax, head of the Israeli telecommunications authority [name and title as received]. This subcommittee is discussing all the issues pertaining to the establishment of a Palestinian radio and television, radio and television research, telephone communications, and an international code number for the future Palestinian telephone exchange authority.

The Security Committee has held a meeting in the residence of the Palestinian delegation cochaired by Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and General Amnon Shahaq.

MENA has learned that the two delegations are carrying their leaderships' reply to the joint draft reached last night on the Palestinian police force and on security cooperation and coordination.

At its meeting today, the committee will discuss the timetable for the release of all Palestinians jailed in Israeli prisons in accordance with the provisions of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Bilateral Talks Continue in Washington

TA1602060894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] In Washington the bilateral talks will resume this afternoon with discussions on economic issues. Representatives of the United States and Jordan will participate. At the same time negotiations between Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians will continue. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says in the meeting with Syria, Israeli delegation head Itamar Rabinovich requested that security arrangements on the Golan be discussed. However, the Syrians, as in the past, said discussions had to first focus on an Israeli withdrawal.

Israeli delegation head to the talks with Jordan, Elyaqim Rubinstein, says only after a peace accord is made between the two countries will the issue of refugees be discussed. Rubinstein said he believes the issue is too vast to be negotiated only between Israel and Jordan, but rather should be dealt with in the multilaterals. Rubinstein's comments were made in response to King Husayn's remarks on Monday [14 February] that the problem of Palestinian refugees should be solved prior to her making peace with Israel.

In Tabu the discussions on security and civilian issues continue today. Qol Yisra'el's special correspondent at the talks, Karmela Menashe, says Israel has agreed to the deployment of 6,000 Palestinian policemen in the autonomous areas, but Palestinians are insisting on 10,000. The mood remains optimistic, but cautious, as we hear in this comment made last night by the head of the Palestinian delegation, Nabil Sha'ith:

[Begin Sha'ith recording] I learned from experience that the less we talk about the substance the better is the chance of reaching an agreement. And unless there are problems—if there are problems everybody will have to explain to the press that it's not his problems, but the other side's. But I don't see there is any problem. And maybe this time we will make this agreement. I hope we have made benefit from all the traveling we made before and the agreement in Cairo. It might have really improved the credibility of the two parties. So maybe there was some good that came out of this long touristic negotiating round between Davos and [word indistinct], between Versailles and Oslo, and finally Cairo. But we have come back where we started, and I hope that's where we will complete everything. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reviews Israeli Talks, Arab Ties

JN1502190694 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 14-20
Feb 94 pp 28-30

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Ghassan Shirbil in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Shirbil] What were the negotiations like before the Cairo Agreement?

['Arafat] I had wished that an initial agreement would be made, as I had agreed with Mr. Peres, in the presence of my brother, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. I had also wished that this initial agreement would be followed by a final agreement in the presence of Mr. Rabin in Cairo. We covered a considerable distance in Davos during the world economic conference, and before that in Oslo during the funeral of our friend Holst, the former Norwegian foreign minister. However, we were surprised recently by Israel's request for a further delay of one

week, after the Israeli delegation received several telephone calls from Tel Aviv, under the pretext that they need more time to study the draft that is under discussion.

Apparently, as has been reported by several Israeli newspapers, primarily YEDI'OT AHARONOT, the military command has an intransigent stand against the agreement. As a matter of fact, the question will become one of international responsibility rather than Palestinian responsibility. The agreement was under President Clinton's auspices at the White House and bears the signatures of the two cosponsors of the conference. There was also an international blessing of the agreement. What is happening reflects new, hard-line Israeli positions that try to demolish the very foundations of the agreement. These stands are being fabricated and are related to issues that are foreign to the agreement, in letter and spirit. International law says that the withdrawal of any occupying power from any territory means that this territory is liberated. This applies to Gaza and Jericho.

The current attempts to add as many texts as possible is meant to undermine this concept in the September agreement in Washington. It is now clear, after all that has happened in Oslo, Paris, Davos, and Cairo, that there is an ongoing Israeli attempt not to honor the deadlines they have agreed to, or not to honestly implement the agreement. This is now the responsibility of the entire international community.

[Shirbil] Do you feel that after the U.S.-Syrian Geneva summit, Israel is no longer interested in quick progress on the Palestinian track?

['Arafat] No. The evidence is that there was no concrete progress in the recent negotiations in Washington. Anyway, any progress on any Arab track is progress on all other tracks.

[Shirbil] There has been recently more talk about differences between Rabin and Peres.

['Arafat] I do not take things at face value. The bottom line is that I am facing the Israeli government, whether it is represented by Rabin, Peres, or Baraq.

[Shirbil] It is said that arms are being distributed in Gaza and elsewhere. What do you think?

['Arafat] The most serious thing about this issue is that Israeli intelligence officers, with the full knowledge of the government, are carrying out a huge arms sales in the occupied territories, as part of a malicious plan to ignite inter-Palestinian fighting after their departure. Israeli Army officers are behind the arms sales. However, I have great confidence in our people and their awareness, struggle, faith, and power.

[Shirbil] This means that your taking over power in Gaza and Jericho will bring up the possibility of a confrontation with some of the population?

[Arafat] No. The issue is not that of some people. The public selling of arms, in this huge quantity, is meant to create a security problem in all of our occupied territory. I hold the cosponsors of the conference responsible for this serious action, and I have raised this question with U.S., Russian, European, and Chinese officials, since they are among the permanent members of the Security Council.

[Shirbil] What will happen if Israel pursues its current approach?

[Arafat] The result is that the agreement will not be implemented. Israel, and all its supporters on the international scene—Israel does not act without the support of some international forces—should understand that peace is not only a Palestinian and Arab demand; it is a Palestinian, Arab, international, Israeli, U.S., and European demand. Everybody should understand that the alternative is comprehensive anarchy in the region, whose scope only God knows, and that will definitely Balkanize the region. Any Israeli or international official who supports Israel in this stand is mistaken if he believes that Israel can quietly swallow up any Arab territory.

[Shirbil] Can we say the agreement is in danger?

[Arafat] There is no doubt about this. It is obvious that Israel procrastinates and tries to evade implementing it. It suffices for Rabin to announce that dates are not sacrosanct to show how false their approach to peace is.

[Shirbil] Are you preparing yourself for its possible collapse?

[Arafat] I am a practical man and I do not live in dreams. Things will be tackled as they come. For every action, there is a reaction equal to it, according to engineering theories.

[Shirbil] For example, resuming armed operations?

[Arafat] Not only armed operations, but there will be total confusion in the region.

[Shirbil] Are there contacts with the Hamas Movement to contain any eventual deterioration?

[Arafat] Contacts are under way with all the brother officials in the factions in the Palestinian arena.

[Shirbil] What about dialogue with Hamas? Are there new attempts in this respect?

[Arafat] We never suspend contacts with any Palestinian faction.

[Shirbil] How do you assess the results of your visit to Saudi Arabia and your talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques?

[Arafat] The truth is that it was a blessed visit. The meeting was cordial, brotherly, and positive, as is the case when his majesty the king meets us and with all of

Palestine. As you know, I used to put his majesty in the picture, whether directly through letters or indirectly, about all the details of developments in the Palestinian arena, and he supported us. This support was expressed in the statement the Saudi council of ministers issued at the end of the visit. We thank his majesty for this, particularly his stand on the question of Jerusalem and the interest he shows in this issue, toward the Palestinian cause, and the Palestinian people. I thank him from the bottom of my heart. Let us hope we will meet soon, God willing, to pray in Jerusalem.

[Shirbil] From King Husayn's statement, one understands that the Jordanian authorities wish to stop speaking about the confederation issue?

[Arafat] I read this statement. Of course, for us, the issue of confederation is a political decision made by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in 1983 and which it reconfirmed in every session that followed. This decision calls for a confederal union with Jordan in accordance with the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian people. This decision is binding on all the Palestinian command and all the Palestinian factions. However, at the same time, we respect and appreciate any free Jordanian option as mentioned in our PNC decision.

[Shirbil] It seems that since last August Jordan and the PLO have been speaking different languages, or at least there has not been an agreement on interpretation?

[Arafat] I do agree on this specific topic. As I have said, the talk about a confederation has come within the framework of the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal people. We do not want to impose our political decision on anyone. You surely remember that one of the decisions was made at the PNC session in Amman in 1984 and in two agreements, one of which I and his majesty the king signed in 1985, dealing with a confederation. After this came the disengagement decision that his majesty the king announced and the 1985 agreement was suspended. Then we went to Madrid as a joint delegation in accordance with a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement the two parties signed.

[Shirbil] Some say you are intentionally postponing settling some matters until after you leave for Gaza and Jericho

[Arafat] Like what?

[Shirbil] The relationship with Jordan and issues concerning the Palestinian arena?

[Arafat] This is untrue. We signed two agreements with Jordan, an economic agreement and a security agreement. We signed with Egypt an economic agreement, and we are in the process of signing a security agreement. At my recent meeting with His Majesty King Husayn we agreed that the joint committees' work will continue.

[Shirbil] Do you plan to visit Syria again after your recent meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad to offer condolences on the death of his son Basil?

[Arafat] I was dutybound to go to Syria to offer sympathies after his profound loss, considering the longstanding, strong relationship I have with President al-Asad. I had known the departed since he was a little boy. It is a brotherly relation between us that developed 30 years ago. May God help my brother President al-Asad to overcome this profound calamity, which is a loss for Syria, myself, and all of us. I welcome any opportunity to visit the brothers in Syria. I want to proudly note the meeting of the heads of negotiating teams in Washington as a beginning of the restoration of this cohesion to the talks.

[Shirbil] Do you expect imminent progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, for example, reaching a declaration of principles?

[Arafat] It was supposed and expected that something will happen in Washington. However, according to what the brothers in Syria said, no progress was made on the Syrian track, nor on the Jordanian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks. This reveals the size of the maneuver by which Israel is trying to buy time.

[Shirbil] The question of democracy has once again surfaced in the Palestinian arena. What is the scope of the problem?

[Arafat] The very fact that this question has surfaced in the arena gives an indication of the scope of democracy in this arena. I want to ask: Can this problem surface in other arenas with the same candor and clarity that we see in the Palestinian arena? We are democratic. We are proud that we have achieved a democracy of the jungle of rifles since the launching of the Palestinian revolution and up until now. The revolution and the people take pride in this achievement.

[Shirbil] I meant charges that you have a monopoly over decisionmaking?

[Arafat] Do you know the saying: They could not find anything wrong with the rose, so they told it: You have red cheeks? I am a businessman for 18 hours a day, and I follow everything, small and important. I have been this way since the launching of the revolution. Is there anything wrong with that? I am proud, at the same time, that I do not make any decision without seeking the advice of my comrades. I also take pride in different views and criticism. I always remember the famous saying: May God have mercy on anyone who corrects [Caliph] Umar. I also remember Voltaire's saying: I might disagree with you, but I am willing to fight for your freedom of expression. No doubt, I am there in the serious, important, and major junctures that face our cause, people, and destiny. I am a man who does not hide. I do not bury my head in the sand. But the truth is that there has been a campaign, since we signed the agreement, by some brothers and friends and some

international quarters, to try to strangle this new baby, Palestine, which is experiencing a rebirth.

There are many forces against this baby and against this rebirth. This event will change the map of the Middle East. They say that we are incapable of running a state. This is one of the stupid questions that are being raised. Right from the outset, we have been a state within a revolution. Has any revolution paid as much attention as we did to education and medical services? Lebanon bears witness to this, through our hospitals and dispensaries.

Has any revolution paid as much attention as we did to universities, social care, sports, and exporting agricultural products? I want to know why those questions were not asked to Mandela, Mugabe, Samora Machel, Ben Bella, and why they did not ask all the revolutionaries who liberated their countries?

[Shirbil] When did you first think of peace with the Israelis? Were the first contacts with them like the ones 'Isam al-Sartawi held after obtaining your agreement?

[Arafat] Since 1974, I have been thinking of negotiations with Israel. The PNC decided to establish a national authority on any inch of land we liberated or from which Israel pulled out. In the same year, the Palestinian revolution accepted a joint Arab delegation to the Geneva talks. In 1977, we accepted the Egyptian-U.S. statement in which they proposed a joint Arab delegation, including a low-level PLO representation. We then decided to deliver our approval of Resolution No. 242 to Gromyko. I also want to recall our approval of King Fahd's initiative in Fes in 1981. 'Isam al-Sartawi won my agreement to meet with the Israelis. I was the first to meet with members of the Israeli Communist Party, Rakah, in Berlin in 1983. What is strange is that some Rakah members, like Mahmud Darwish, later became members of the PLO Executive Committee. Such meetings were regarded at that time as a crime. We were also the first to support the "Peace Now Movement" in Israel and the first to call for a democratic state in which people can coexist.

You have asked me about fears regarding our current decisions and steps. I do not feel I have made a mistake. I have carried out the PNC resolutions, as well as the Palestinian peace initiative. Did we go to Madrid to dance or to make peace?

[Shirbil] Did you wish you would enter Palestinian territory with a machine gun?

[Arafat] I entered it with a machine gun. The last time was in 1968.

[Shirbil] How many people betrayed you and abandoned you in delicate situations?

[Arafat] Many fell in every stage of the revolution, but they were few compared to those who joined the revolution, more determined and resolute.

[Shirbil] With whom had you wished that you would enter Palestinian territory?

[Arafat] I wish all martyrs had been with me, led by my brother Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf].

[Shirbil] When are you supposed to go to Gaza and Jericho?

[Arafat] I am supposed to go there this month, February.

[Shirbil] When did you first know that the Soviet Union had ended and that you could no longer depend on it?

[Arafat] During a meeting of the socialist countries in Berlin attended by Gorbachev, I and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, were also sitting at the main table. I said to al-Bid: This is not the Soviet Union we knew. What is happening is completely different.

[Shirbil] What were the most difficult moments in your life, negotiating with enemies or with others?

[Arafat] Was there any moment in my life that was not difficult? I live with difficulties.

'Arafat Reportedly Deposits Funds in Wife's Name

NC1502190294 Beirut AL-AHD in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 17

[Text] Palestinian sources have stated that Yasser 'Arafat has registered large amounts of PLO funds in the name of his wife, Suha Tawil. These funds were originally in 'Arafat's name. The sources said large amounts, estimated at millions of dollars, have been placed in Suha Tawil's name in Asian banks and investment companies, including ones in Singapore and Indonesia.

Executive Committee Member Views Cairo Accord

JN1502115394 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 15 Feb 94 p 23

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, says any Executive Committee session to which fewer than 10 members turn up is illegal.

In statements to AL-RAY, Hurani observed that the PLO's bylaws state that the Executive Committee quorums are met by the attendance of two thirds of its membership—12 out of 18 members. Six members have boycotted its meetings since last September over the Oslo agreement. He indicated that the bylaws also provide that if the 12-member quorum failed to materialize, a meeting may be set for the following day, with the

attendance of half the committee members of nine plus one. Accordingly, any session to which fewer than 10 members report is deemed illegal.

I suggested to him that this had been practice even before the Oslo agreement and was nothing new to the Executive Committee meetings. Hurani agreed, but noted that the decisions under consideration by the Executive Committee this time are crucial.

He called the Cairo agreement an offspring of the Oslo accord, and contended that it yielded further ground to the Israelis. An assertive and vigorous popular action in the occupied territories, rather than smartness and skill at the negotiating table, can call a halt to these concessions, Hurani maintained.

The PLO Executive Committee member, who is viewed as an independent, said he was not surprised by the Cairo agreement, seeing that it is substantially covered by the Oslo accord. The Cairo agreement simply spelled out certain details.

The series of Palestinian concessions also did not come as a surprise to me, Hurani added. Criticisms and opposition, he said, must focus mainly on the root of the problem and that is the Oslo accord. Unless the Palestinian leadership rethinks the core of its position, the string of concessions seems unlikely to stop there. It has made a series of retreats on the boundaries, the crossings, the area of the Jericho enclave, Jewish settlements, and security. [passage omitted]

PNSF, Fatah Official Criticize Cairo Agreement

JN1502165094 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Damascus, 15 Feb (SANA)—The Palestinian National Salvation Front (PNSF) has warned against the seriousness of the Cairo agreement signed by Israel and the PLO. It pointed out that this agreement has clearly disclosed the extent of the concessions 'Arafat made in the Oslo agreement.

In a statement issued today, the PNSF said the articles and terms of reference of the Cairo agreement violate national and pan-Arab principles. This agreement is a coordinative approach with the enemy and an attempt to end our people's intifadah, tamper with their security, and liquidate their cause and rights, which will threaten our people's existence and national destiny.

In another development, brother Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Fatah Central Committee, said the Fatah Movement rejects the Cairo agreement which bestows full legitimacy on Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip and Jericho and entrenches the Zionist settlements.

In a press statement today, Abu-Musa added: We see in this agreement an additional step in a plan hostile to our people and nation. This step is intended to generalize the phenomenon of the Oslo agreement in the region and penetrate deeper into Arab ranks by peddling partial and separate agreements, he noted.

Israel Accused of Seeking To Undermine Fatah

TA1502200894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
15 Feb 94 pp 1, 18

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, QUDS PRESS—Fatah, the principal faction in the PLO, has accused the Israeli intelligence services of launching a "grave and systematic war" with the aim of undermining the movement's internal front which supports the peace process and the self-rule agreement. [passage omitted]

The Fatah statement warned against a war being waged by the Shin Bet in a bid to "prepare the climate for a prolonged civil war." The statement said that "the Shin Bet aims to create suspect bodies that raise the national slogan and operate under different names within Fatah." It called on the movement's supporters "to act with alertness and high responsibility and not deal with these unofficial and illegitimate organizations."

The statement stressed that "organizational statements" signed by Fatah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip "are approved officially by Fatah's supreme organizational committee in the occupied territories." Other statements are considered "unofficial," including those by "Fatah's organizational offices in the territories."

Economist Outlines 'First' PLO Budget

NC1502142294 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT
15 Feb 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb. 15 (AFP)—The PLO has worked out a first budget of 600 million dollars to cover the running of the autonomous authority in the occupied territories this year, Palestinian economist Samir 'Abdallah told AFP.

The figures, calculated on the assumption that autonomy will be launched in March, allow for a 118 million dollar deficit.

Some 280 million dollars should be raised from direct taxation, said 'Abdallah, a member of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), set up by PLO chairman Yasser 'Arafat to oversee the two billion dollars aid promised by donor countries for the five years of autonomy.

He noted that most of the deficit should be covered by 120 million promised by donors for administrative affairs.

"This budget does not cover infrastructure or any development projects. This will be dealt with elsewhere," he noted.

PECDAR advertised in Tuesday's (13 February) Palestinian press 16 management jobs for the tax and finance departments in the future authority which is to run daily life in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Israel and the PLO resumed negotiations in Egypt this week in a bid to seal an overall agreement to launch autonomy.

Algeria

Authorities Arrest Sailor, Seize Arms From Ship

LD1502193194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] A statement by the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities discloses that successive investigations have enabled the security services to find a quantity of weapons and various items which were hidden in an Algerian freighter by the sailor Hacene Mialet. His confessions and other clues indicated that this equipment was to be delivered to him in the German port of Hamburg by Djamel Lounici who is wanted for involvement in a number of terrorist activities.

An unforeseen event happened and prevented the delivery of the equipment at the German harbor, but in the end the weapons were delivered to Hacene Mialet in the Belgian port of Antwerp. Investigations are continuing and have led to the arrest of several people involved including the above-mentioned sailor.

The weapons seized are: 20 rifles, 15 automatic pistols, a considerable quantity of ammunition, two-way radios, and optical equipment.

Egypt

Explosion Damages Kuwaiti Bank in Cairo

NC1602110194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—An official security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that a primitive device placed outside one of the International Kuwaiti Alexandria Bank windows in Suriya Street in al-Jizah went off at 2015 today. The explosion shattered the window and the windshields of two cars parked opposite it; there was no other damage or casualties.

The security source said the device was primitively made and was similar to those made by children to make popping sounds. The source added that this proves that the act was only meant to attract media attention, which remnants of the deviants are trying hard to do to show that they still exist.

The source said that the security services are warning the deviants that they will face a strong and decisive confrontation. The security services will not hesitate to confront these attempts decisively. At the same time, the source said, all security services sense the people's confidence that the police will put an end to these petty criminal attempts, which show how weak the deviant terrorist groups are.

The security source said that Egypt's nationalist forces stand behind the security forces, defending by all means the culture and history of the nation. They will never allow a stray criminal group to sabotage the homeland.

Official Denies Details of Reports on Bombing

NC1502125494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—An official security source in the Interior Ministry today denied a report carried last night by the French news agency AFP about four persons seriously wounded in an explosion yesterday in a commercial district in the city of Tanta in al-Gharbiyah Governorate on the central Delta.

The official also denied information the agency attributed to the police: that the bomb, which was planted in a shop, was the same type found in terrorist dens in the al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' neighborhood of Cairo early this month. The official pointed out that the French agency said that the Islamic Group has decided to avenge the death of its seven members in al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' and that the group has carried out five operations, the last of which was an attack on a bus carrying Romanians and Egyptians in Asyut yesterday. He remarked that certain foreign news agencies tried to portray the operation as an attack against a tourist bus to blow the incident out of proportion and misrepresent the state of security and stability.

The official noted that the agencies carried the distorted report in spite of the fact that a security source in the Interior Ministry had issued a statement refuting it. The source said in his statement that preliminary inspection affirmed that the person who fired at the bus had no intention of hurting anyone and that he only wanted to get back at the company that owns the bus for dismissing some of its workers.

The official affirmed that the AFP report is groundless and that the truth was spelled out in a detailed Interior Ministry statement. That statement explained that as merchant Sa'id Ahmad 'Ali, a junkyard owner, was loading a truck with junk from his shop bound for the Iron and Steel Factory in Musturud a piece of junk exploded. Seven passersby sustained superficial wounds, were taken to the hospital for first aid, and were later released. The statement added that the explosion resulted from an artillery shell, a leftover from the war.

The source noted that AFP added to its report what other foreign news agencies called "a statement by terrorist groups," as though it wanted to arouse threats by terrorist groups. It did so despite earlier announcements by the Interior Ministry on various occasions that terrorist elements are being hit, that the security agencies now have the initiative, and that the agencies will not hesitate in waging a deterrent confrontation until the last terrorist is eliminated in Egypt.

The security official warned that the Interior Ministry will take legal measures against these reports, which are even more serious than the criminal acts committed by terrorists because they aim to hurt Egypt and its status and civilization.

The official added that the Egyptian press and the Egyptian news agency, MENA, realized AFP's ill-willed lies and attached no significance to them.

He concluded that the Interior Ministry can only reiterate the credibility and esteem attributed to the honest men of the media in Egypt, who stand in the same trench with the security organs and all the nationalist and political powers to defend Egypt's security. The ministry expresses its appreciation of foreign and world news agency correspondents in Egypt who are bound by objectivity and honesty and reiterates that it will maintain cooperation with them.

'Preemptive' Strikes Against 'Terrorism' Viewed
NC1602094294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT
15 Feb 94

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—The security agencies have delivered a good preemptive strike at the elements of terrorism and subversion based on a security strategy of taking the initiative in all security operations, which has evolved into a pattern of dealing with fugitive terrorists to foil their criminal plots.

Yesterday's preemptive strike against a number of terrorists has confirmed that all branches of the security authorities are working within a framework of complete coordination and cooperation to confront these terrorists and place them under constant attack. The strike was also a message to other fugitive terrorists, warning them that any acts they might commit are doomed to fail, especially in light of the prevailing national unity and the complete popular support for the security agencies and all their actions.

This preemptive strike is the fourth of its kind to take place in the center of a heavily populated poor neighborhood, in which no citizen or policeman was hit.

The first blow was the arrest of nine terrorists who carried out the failed attempt to assassinate the prime minister on 25 November, during which not a single shot was fired. They are currently being tried by a military tribunal.

The second blow was in the al-Ma'sarah incident during security sweeps in the area where two terrorists were killed and two others, one of whom was a Palestinian, were arrested. In this incident a dangerous terrorist named Tharwat Hajjaj managed to escape, only to meet his death yesterday along with two others in a clash in the al-Sayyidah Zaynab neighborhood.

The third blow was delivered in the al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' area late in January against terrorist hideouts, in which seven dangerous terrorists, known as the Asyut group, were killed and no civilians or security men were hit.

Muslim Brotherhood Official on Dialogue Exclusion

NC1502161694 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
9 Feb 94 p 7

[Interview with Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman, by reporter Muhammad Raghieb; place and date not given]

[Text] [Raghieb] Can you comment on President Mubarak's remarks on the Muslim Brotherhood at the Book Fair?

[Al-Hudaybi] President Mubarak does not want to recognize the Muslim Brotherhood as a legal entity and says that he does not know of anything called the Muslim Brotherhood. I do not understand this, because the Brotherhood is a fact and a reality known to every Egyptian who knows its long history. How can the president not know about our existence?

[Raghieb] How do you explain the president's nonrecognition of the Brotherhood?

[Al-Hudaybi] I do not know yet on what basis the president denies our existence. He always stresses that he will never recognize us, now or in the future. There is no way or opportunity to meet him and discuss this issue and, at least, to find out his reasons for not recognizing us.

[Raghieb] Is there any hope that the Brotherhood will participate in the national dialogue?

[Al-Hudaybi] Various and differing statements have been issued by the Presidential Office. All of them call for the political forces to participate in the dialogue. When Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs, was asked whether the Islamic groups will be invited to the dialogue, he said it is a political and social necessity to invite them and that all groups will be invited as long as they adhere to the Constitution and the law and not to violence. Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the board and chief editor of AL-AHRAM, also referred to this point in several articles he wrote. We deduced from these articles that he had received political instructions to emphasize the participation of the political forces in the dialogue.

[Raghieb] Do we understand from this that the optimistic statements that came out at the beginning prompted you to prepare to participate in the dialogue?

[Al-Hudaybi] We did in fact begin to prepare for the dialogue. We participated with all the other opposition parties in all the meetings that were held specifically to prepare for this dialogue. We signed the opposition parties' statement addressed to the regime.

[Raghib] Putting aside the nonrecognition, what is preventing you from submitting whatever action programs you have to the dialogue if you are not able to participate in it?

[Al-Hudaybi] Like any active force in the nation, we could contribute our ideas, cultural views, and capabilities on the issues that will be raised in the dialogue, just like any popular force that is active in issues that are of concern to the people.

[Raghib] What is the reaction inside the Muslim Brotherhood to your exclusion from the dialogue?

[Al-Hudaybi] We definitely regret this stand. We were hoping that the dialogue would be a genuine national one, because such a dialogue would embrace all the active forces in the homeland. If you exclude one active force, you are contradicting the principles of the democratic system. It would also mean that the dialogue would encompass just a part of the homeland, not all of it.

[Raghib] What has your group decided since the recent stand?

[Al-Hudaybi] We have no choice now but to obtain a license to register the Muslim Brotherhood Party. Issuing a license is not in the hands of the Parties Committee [in the People's Assembly], but is well within the powers of the president of the republic himself.

[Raghib] But the regime opposes the establishment of an Islamic party, so that the Copts will not ask to establish a Christian party.

[Al-Hudaybi] The regime's justification is weak and politically motivated. I believe there is no harm in establishing a Christian party vis-a-vis an Islamic party. In 1948, and before the parties law was issued, the Muslim Brotherhood was religiously and politically active without the Copts demonstrating against it. On the contrary, relations with them were very good, and they still are.

[Raghib] We all know about the Muslim Brotherhood's activity before the revolution and until it clashed with the regime in 1954, when an edict dissolving it was issued. Why does the group insist on engaging in political activity?

[Al-Hudaybi] Political action has always been part of the Muslim Brotherhood's policy. We have no choice here; passages in the Koran and Sunnah [Prophet Muhammad's sayings and deeds] contain many provisions concerning government and politics. Since the group was established in 1928, those of our religion have proved their patriotism at all times.

[Raghib] Are you seeking to gain power?

[Al-Hudaybi] All political forces and parties seek power; this right is not exclusive to a certain party or group. But this should be done in a legitimate way through genuine

democracy and free elections. It is the right of every Egyptian political force to seek power, and we are one of them.

[Raghib] The current Muslim Brotherhood is accused of being an extension of the group's prerevolution military wing. What about this? What about the linkage between the Muslim Brotherhood and the acts of violence?

[AL-WAFD] Al-Hudaybi forcefully denied this accusation, saying it is intended to discredit the Muslim Brotherhood. He said the current leaders of the group have nothing to do with anything related to a military or underground organization. He added:

[Al-Hudaybi] We work publicly, and I reject any linkage between violence and the Brotherhood. It is well known that we condemn terrorism and violence.

[Raghib] What about internal differences within the Muslim Brotherhood?

[AL-WAFD] Al-Hudaybi denied the existence of any blocs or trends within the group, but he stressed that there is freedom of opinion. He said it is impossible for the whole group to have the same opinion.

[Raghib] What about your relations with Muslim Brotherhood groups abroad?

[Al-Hudaybi] The Islamic Brotherhood emerged in Egypt. People in various Arab and non-Arab countries then accepted its principles either through books or immigration. They shared the group's thought and policy and established groups in their own countries. Here, we find great similarity in thought and way of acting, but every group adapts according to the circumstances of its country.

U.S. Envoy Reportedly Tells Cairo of Threat to U.S. Tourists

NC1502193694 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic
5 Feb 94 p 24

[Report by Badra Bakhus al-Fighali from Paris]

[Text] According to a senior Egyptian official, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo told the Egyptian prime minister: "The U.S. Administration has received information that terrorist groups are planning to carry out attacks against U.S. tourists in Egypt."

The official says this information was behind an alert the United States issued to its citizens concerning the possibility of attacks against them. The Egyptian prime minister told the U.S. ambassador that Egypt's competent authorities have no information or evidence in this regard. The prime minister asked the ambassador to provide the Egyptian Government with any information that Washington has on this so that the two countries might cooperate in facing any possible threat to tourists. Washington and Cairo are holding consultations on this issue.

Official Receives Visiting Somali Party Leader
*NC1502183594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT
15 Feb 94*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Somalia's Mohamed Abdoh Hashi, leader of the United Somali Party [name and title as received], praised Egypt's support for the efforts being made to solve the Somali problem and implement the Addis Ababa Agreement.

In a statement he made today following his meeting with Ambassador Sa'id Ramadan, assistant foreign minister for African affairs, he said he briefed the Egyptian official on the latest developments in the Somali problem and exchanged views with him on the means to solve the Somali crisis.

Asked about incidents in the Somali town of Kismaayo, he said they were regrettable incidents, resulting from attempts by Aidid's people to create tension, especially as the parties in Kismaayo were on the verge of achieving national reconciliation. He added that Somalia is enjoying stability in most of its 18 provinces with the exception of some places where there is tension.

Hashi said he will meet tomorrow with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid and discuss the role the Arab League can play to help the Somali people and in achieving national reconciliation.

Hashi is the first Somali leader to arrive in Cairo following the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's invitation to all the Somali leaders to unite their positions and start implementing the Addis Ababa agreement to solve the Somali problem.

Libya

Opposition Force Disavows Officer's Comments
*PM1502114294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Feb
94 pp1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "Al-Habbuni and al-Shaykhi: Haftar Loses His Leadership Status in the Opposition Army"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The (opposition) National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) has issued a statement saying that its leadership met and studied the "statement issued by 15 members (the day before yesterday) announcing their decision to leave the NFSL." It wished them all "every success in serving the national cause in the context of their new options." Meanwhile, Colonel Salih al-Habbuni, deputy commander in chief of the "Libyan National Army" [LNA] (the NFSL's military arm), and Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Shaykhi, that army's chief of operations, have issued a statement criticizing LNA Commander Colonel Khalifah Haftar, saying that he "has no right to speak on behalf of the LNA" and that his

statement was full of "fabrications, prevarications, and false claims." They stressed that the LNA "is a part of the NFSL's institutions."

The day before yesterday 15 NFSL members announced that they were seceding from it. They included some leading members such as Burayk Suwaysi, Col. Haftar, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Saghir, 'Umar al-Fathali, and Yunis al-Fannush, and fund raisers such as al-Hajj al-Sabir Majid and Husayn Sufraki. In a separate detailed statement "in the name of the LNA's officers, warrant officers, and soldiers," Haftar announced his withdrawal from the NFSL and attacked its leadership "which has failed to rise to the level of the challenge."

Al-Habbuni and al-Shaykhi issued a statement yesterday in which they said: "The press carried (the day before yesterday) a statement in the name of Col. Haftar on behalf of the LNA's officers and soldiers making numerous claims and accusations against the NFSL's leadership and in conclusion announcing his withdrawal from the NFSL.... In view of the fabrications, prevarications, and false allegations contained in that statement, we have decided that it is our struggle duty as well as our military and moral duty to disclose a number of things to the public."

The statement added: "Col. Haftar has no right to speak on behalf of the LNA which is one of the NFSL's institutions founded by the joint will of all the officers, warrant officers, soldiers, and fedayeen and by a decision of the NFSL's Permanent Bureau on 21 June 1988."

It continued: "The characterizations and charges made by Haftar against the NFSL and its leadership are unjust, offensive, and unfounded.... By announcing his withdrawal from the NFSL, Col. Haftar has lost his leadership status in the LNA which represents the NFSL's armed forces and is one of its institutions."

In conclusion, the statement emphasized "pride in the NFSL, its role in the struggle, and its great and continuous efforts in manifestation of the national will seeking to overthrow the Libya regime and to replace it with a national, constitutional, and democratic alternative..., and pride in being a part of it and linked to its objectives, march, leadership, and legitimate institutions."

It should be recalled that those who split from the NFSL had issued two internal memoranda last August and November, the first focusing on the need for internal reforms, criticizing the internal and external methods of work, and calling for a revision of the organizational frameworks. The second strongly criticized NFSL Secretary General Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif for claiming responsibility for the military mutiny which occurred in Bani-Walid in Libya last October as a result of which, it said, NFSL members at home were hunted down and arrested.

In December the NFSL's Permanent Bureau held a meeting attended by some of those who announced their secession the day before yesterday. It was agreed at that

meeting that all the observations, criticisms, and differences would be referred to the NFSL's National Council (the highest authority), which was due to convene in a matter of months, but the continuation of differences made it impossible to wait for that National Council's meeting and has led to the present state of affairs.

Tripoli Said To Offer Aozou Strip for POWs' Return

PM1602112594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Libya Asks Chad To Hand Over POW's in Return for Aozou Strip"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-HAYAH—A Chadian diplomatic source in Tripoli has confirmed that Libya is asking Chad to hand over 500 Libyan POW's, who are now in the United States, in return for the Aozou strip. Meanwhile, the opposition's National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL], which these POW's subsequently joined, has decided to appoint Colonel Salih Muhammad al-Habbuni commander in chief of the Libyan National Army [LNA] (the NFSL's military arm) in place of Colonel Khalifah Haftar. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the NFSL leadership issued a statement saying it had decided to appoint al-Habbuni commander in chief of the opposition army and Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Shaykhi deputy commander in chief. The statement said that the army represented the "NFSL's armed forces and was established by a decision of the Permanent Bureau 21 June 1988 after a large number of Libyan senior officers, warrant officers, and soldiers deployed in Chad announced that they were joining the NFSL." The statement also said that "Col. Haftar had held the post of commander in chief of that army by a decision of the NFSL's Executive Committee, until he announced his withdrawal from the NFSL" on 11 February 1994.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Appoints Second Vice President

EA1502131394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] President 'Umar al-Bashir has issued a decree appointing Police Major General George Kongor Arop as second vice president of the Republic. His Excellency also issued a republican decree relieving the governors of states, their deputies, and ministers from their posts while appointing new governors. Commissioners have been charged with running the affairs of the new states at their headquarters until new governors are sworn in and entrusted with their duties.

Al-Bashir Signs Decree on New States

EA1502140694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] President 'Umar al-Bashir signed Constitutional Decree No. 10 relating to the division of Sudan into 26 states at the Republican Palace yesterday evening. He said in a speech he delivered at the official ceremony held to mark the occasion that the country is entering a unique constitutional phase as Sudan will be administered by 26 state governments in addition to the federal government. He pointed out that each government will enjoy executive and legislative powers which the citizens have never experienced in the remote areas. He said that the powers and jurisdictions of the governors and ministers have been defined in a clearer and more comprehensive form.

President al-Bashir said that the Bureau of Federal Governance must be regarded as responsible for following up the implementation of federal governance in the states as well as linking the states with one another, and linking them to the federal government to facilitate proceedings and to save the time of officials in the states.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that measures will be taken in the coming days to regulate the work of the legislative councils and to define their powers to complete the effective consultative framework. He confirmed the role of the Transitional National Assembly which will take part in legislation and the introduction of amendments and endorsements. His Excellency stressed that Sudan will continue its march toward the implementation of the revolutionary slogans despite the conspiracies of the enemies of the nation to torpedo the cultural scheme.

His Excellency appealed to the citizens to support their new state governments by working continuously to arouse everybody's energies and to utilize their capabilities to strengthen the march toward stability and development. President al-Bashir recommended to the governments of the new states the need to take care of the weak, the elderly, the widowed, and orphaned in line with social assistance objectives because it is through them that God showers his mercy and removes the people's plight.

Military Reportedly Massing Troops in Zaïre, CAR

AB1502155694 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 15 (AFP)—Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist military government is allegedly massing child soldiers in neighbouring Zaïre and the Central African Republic [CAR] to attack southern rebels, relief officials said Monday [14 February].

A major government offensive against the black and mainly Christian rebels, weakened by internal divisions, has driven more than 100,000 southerners towards the Ugandan border. "We have had reports of a massive

military buildup along the border with the Central African Republic, and there are similar reports from Zaire," Michael Semmler of the German relief agency Action Africa in Need told a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi after a two-day visit to rebel-held territory in southern Sudan.

Justin arop Yac of the relief wing of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said Khartoum had "bribed local officials" to turn a blind eye to the massing of Sudanese troops in remote, notoriously lawless areas of Zaire and the Central African Republic bordering Sudan. "Most of the soldiers are just young boys, aged 12 to 15," Yac told AFP. Several foreign relief agencies said they had also received persistent reports of child soldiers grouped just over the borders ready to attack the rebels from behind. The number of troops reportedly poised to attack was unknown.

UN officials said aid to millions of Sudanese verging on starvation in the drought-hit south has been disrupted by a recent government ban on relief flights to key areas along the border. The ban was apparently timed to cut off food to southerners as the government offensive gathered momentum, private relief officials said.

The onslaught by government warplanes and tens of thousands of troops could be Khartoum's final push to crush the southern rebellion, diplomats and aid workers said.

The United Nations has warned foreign aid workers and missionaries around Yambio, near the southern border with Zaire, that they may be endangered by fighting as the government presses on with a major offensive against the rebels. Most aid workers have already withdrawn from areas near the Ugandan border.

Four nuns and three priests of the Comboni order have been told to leave Nzara, a few kilometres (miles) west of Yambio, Semmler said.

He confirmed a claim by John Garang's mainstream SPLA faction to have recaptured the southern town of Mundri, near the Zairean border, last weekend, only hours after it fell to government troops.

Semmler appealed to the UN security council to enforce a "no-fly zone" over southern Sudan to stop the government bombing civilians and force it to allow in food aid. "The war is no longer a military war where armies fight each other," Semmler said. "It is a war where the government of Sudan fights the civilian population in the south. This war is an ongoing human rights violation."

The US government has protested against the bombing of civilians in rebel-held areas by government warplanes, and UN secretary-general Butros Butros-Ghali has also expressed concern.

Khartoum denies the offensive and blames unrest in the south on fighting between Garang's faction and an SPLA splinter group led by Riak Machar who broke with Garang in 1991.

An AFP correspondent, however, witnessed a government bombing raid last week on Pageri village, near the town of Nimule on the Ugandan border, that killed seven people.

Yac said the Arabic-speaking northerners were waging "a genocidal war, a war of ethnic cleansing" against the black southerners, and were deliberately trying to starve civilians.

He backed Mashar's recent accusation that the government was organising slave raids on southern villages, and settling Arabic-speaking northerners on land seized from the largely Christian and animist Africans.

Relief officials said dozens of Sudanese boys had recently returned to Sudan from a refugee camp in northern Kenya sheltering more than 10,000 boys separated from their families by the decade-old war. There was speculation that they had gone to join rebel fighters, the officials said.

'Legitimate Command' Deputy Leader Sa'id Interviewed

PM1502145294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Feb 94 p 12

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, deputy leader of the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Army, by Talhah Jibril in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Jibril] You were in charge of the Army's command. Why did you not fight al-Bashir's coup?

[Sa'id] I will go back a little to talk about the memorandum handed to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government. In this memorandum we spoke about the neglect suffered by the Armed Forces. We asked the government to pay attention to our Armed Forces, and to achieve that we demanded that all parties participate in government and that a solution to the problem of the south should be found.

The memorandum was signed by all officers of the Armed Forces command. And everyone pledged not to embark on any coup attempt. Because we believed that some officers might seize the opportunity to seize power. At the same time the National Islamic Front [led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi] began to criticize the Army's command on the pretext that the Armed Forces command was working to remove the Front from government—which was untrue, because we did not speak about one party in particular. Actually we broached Sudan's problem and the civil war in the south. Even though some officers spoke openly about the need to seize power, our position

as a command was the need to safeguard democracy and protect the democratic experiment. [passage omitted]

[Jibril] As the Legitimate Command, what are your means to restore legitimacy?

[Sa'id] In September 1990 we issued the political declaration, through which we addressed every member of the Armed Forces. We told them that what had happened was a trick aimed at the Armed Forces. So now that matters have become clear, the Army elements must work with us to get rid of this situation so that the Armed Forces' dignity can be restored. The statement encountered a great response inside the Armed Forces. We pointed out in the statement that we as the Legitimate Command favor changing the regime from within the Armed Forces, not from abroad or with foreign assistance. And indeed a large number of officers and non-commissioned officers responded to us. We were about to finish the regime off, but some mistakes caused the plan to be foiled and aborted. So the first option remains to change the regime through the Armed Forces. As for the second option, it is to work with the Democratic National Grouping to restore democracy. This is why we spoke to the officers inside the Armed Forces or those officers who have been dismissed about the need to remove the regime through mass action and military action. We did not say which should happen first.

[Jibril] Do you take into account the possibility of the popular defense militias' aborting any move designed to change the regime?

[Sa'id] True, it will not be easy to change it, and the Popular Defense Forces must be taken into account. But you should also know that the forces trained by the regime are not all loyal to the National Islamic Front. Independent elements have also joined the Popular Defense Forces. We have all the details relating to the popular defense forces, whether with regard to their camps or armament. And when the change process begins, we will work to neutralize these forces. But we must expect losses and casualties, because we are aware of the regime's viciousness. We will confront them with the same viciousness. [passage omitted]

[Jibril] There is talk about the existence of camps inside Sudan to train fundamentalist groups from various parts of the Arab and Islamic worlds. What is your information in this connection?

[Sa'id] We have comprehensive information about this issue. We warned about the existence of such camps a long time ago. We submitted maps showing the places where these extremist groups receive their training. We have our sources inside the country and inside the Armed Forces. They supply us with this information. We have handed this information to the quarters concerned. But some of these quarters have concealed this information. When the regime discovered the accuracy of our information, it moved the camps to other places. [passage omitted]

Armed Oppositionist on Dispute With Col Garang
BR1502153794 Milan PANORAMA in Italian
11 Feb 94 p 80

[Interview with Riek Mashar, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army-United, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "No to Islam"—first paragraph is PANORAMA introduction]

[Text] Before breaking away from the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and founding SPLA-United in 1991, Riek Mashar, the "Commander," was one of the most feared military leaders in Colonel John Garang's entourage. PANORAMA interviewed him.

[PANORAMA] Your movement is mostly Nuer. Garang is a Dinka. Was this the reason for your dispute?

[Mashar] No. The reasons are political. Garang is a despotic and autocratic dictator who recruits kids from the refugee camps and violates human rights. In addition, he wants a federal state while I think that there is no alternative to a completely independent south: The unification imposed by the English in 1946 has no historical basis. The Khartoum regime has massacred and starved the population there for years, and now it wants to impose the laws of Islam and the Arabic language on the south. But it will not succeed. The Muslims are entitled to claim membership of the Arab nation, but we claim our right to assert our Christian and African roots. We will fight until we win independence.

[PANORAMA] Your divisions favor Khartoum's strategy. Is it impossible for you to reach an agreement with Col. Garang?

[Mashar] On 6 January we met and identified some common aims. A global accord is still a long way off, but we cannot lose more time. The Sudanese Army has launched a new offensive and the civilian population is at the end of its strength. We have to stop the genocide of our people.

Hasan Al-Turabi Comments on Islamic Movement
PM1602111394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
13 Feb 94 p 6

[Interview with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Arab People's Congress, by Yusuf Khazim in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khazim] What is the status of the National Islamic Front [NIF] in Sudan? Could it be described as the government's party or is it indeed the government itself? If not, what is its relationship with the regime?

[Al-Turabi] Observers of the dominant aspects of general political life in Sudan should talk about the Islamic trend because that trend is growing and developing in the fields of education and all walks of civilized life, including the cultural, economic, technical, and other aspects. That trend has assumed several names but not as

a traditional party inheriting the same positions within the same structures. The NIF did not only end when it was officially dissolved along with all the Sudanese parties, but its own people also put an end to it because after every political development in Sudan they usually finished their political movement even when it took the form of a party or a movement with a different name and structure, fully different in its regional, class, and social structure from the previous movement.

Truly, the NIF does not exist publicly or secretly, but the majority of the trend which used to be the NIF supports the current regime. But there are many waves of the Islamic trend which the salvation government upholds, and many trends from other parties which had a religious base have transformed their traditional sectarian and partisan religious character into a religious character that is now called fundamentalism abroad.

[Khazim] Is there a constituent framework embodying that trend?

[Al-Turabi] The current political system does not represent one political party. The NIF never believed in a one-party government because that would not be in line with Islamic principles. The political system consists of frameworks, not parties. They are frameworks for consultation and free public opinion. But if you look at the structure of the regime you would find frameworks from known parties which, although they were in disagreement in the past, are all Islamists in their general outlook, with the exception of the Christians. Even the Christians are aware of this general trend and they react to it.

The truth is that the NIF does not exist but political observers always try to see a secret plot behind the apparent signs and try to attribute that to one or several individuals. A large number of the NIF leaders now play no part in the general policy. The government and the new political regime are endeavoring to present themselves as a general national Islamic trend, a trend that is more comprehensive for the south and the north than any former party. [passage omitted]

[Khazim] You were the NIF's leader and now you are emphasizing that it does not exist in Sudan. How do we identify you now?

[Al-Turabi] I am the secretary general of the Islamic Arab People's Congress [IAPC] but I am also known worldwide as a representative, in the general Islamic ideology, of a certain trend in all the world and not just in Sudan. I respond to the Islamic trend in Central and Southern Asia, Africa, and the Arab world and I prefer to be associated with that trend historically. [passage omitted]

[Khazim] Does the IAPC seek to bring all the Islamic trends together within a particular constituent framework?

[Al-Turabi] We do not want to bring them together within an organizational leadership-linked framework because every Islamic reality has its own history and its own particular and different issues, but the general Islamic trend also has a common cause with trends in other cultures now upheld in the West, for instance. There are now very close worldwide links. A human being now is not confined to a certain nationality or region. The various parts of the world are now open to one another in their media, economies, alliances, security, and other relations. That is why I want this trend to focus its vision, which is derived from Islamic values, on the world challenges and to address all the world and all its perceived historical realities. [passage omitted]

We want to lay the foundation as to how this trend, as one nation, should deal with other trends, hold a dialogue with rational moderate Christianity, answer the sometimes fanatical crusade campaigns which sometimes attack Islam without knowing much about it, protect against the many tragedies Muslims are currently suffering in all continents, and defend the Muslims in these places in the media or supply them with the means of jihad in defense of their rights. We want this Islamic trend to provide defense against human injustice and address humanitarian issues in general. The trend is now developing from its old structure into these wider horizons.

[Khazim] In that context does the IAPC seek to change any particular political situations?

[Al-Turabi] In its endeavor to reach all Islamic peoples, the IAPC does not intend to attack any particular governments because it does not want tense relations (with these governments) that would put a barrier between it and the Islamic peoples. Often governments isolate their people and do not really represent their people. We want the Islamic peoples to be open to one another but at the same time we do not want the IAPC to have any tense relations because we do not want it to represent an opposition to any particular regime. [passage omitted]

[Khazim] How does the IAPC view the recourse to violence by some Islamic groups in Egypt and other countries as a way of changing the regimes in these countries?

[Al-Turabi] I do not wish to talk about any country in particular, but I know that the current Islamic awakening is throughout the Islamic world, certainly in the Arab world because the Arabs have led the Islamic movement historically and they are closer to the origins of Islam than non-Arab Muslims. That is what I notice in North Africa generally and also in other countries.

The new phenomena in the course of historical change might be acceptable to some old regimes and might be given freedom, in which case they come cleanly and gradually contribute to the positive evolution of realities, and perhaps resort to dialogue about, say, the negative aspects of their views. But if they collide with advocates

of old realities seeking to maintain their domination, concepts, and economic interests, pressures might push them underground into secret and private activity that would erupt in a form of jihad or something else, for a government's violence and pressure is met with counter-violence and pressure. I regret to say that most signs of mutual pressures and conflicts were started by old ruling regimes seeking to maintain their power. World events were all like that, in France, Russia, China, America, and Britain. Sometimes, however, the new movements hastily resort to violence to the advantage of nobody or are forced to use violence for lack of other means. That is a mistake. [passage omitted]

[Khazim] Does the IAPC advocate dialogue in this connection?

[Al-Turabi] One of the IAPC's important characteristics is that it has mostly advocated dialogue and recommended dialogue between the various Islamic countries and between various forces within Islamic countries such as Afghanistan and Yemen, and also between regimes and groups seeking change, as in Algeria. It recommended dialogue and tolerance. [passage omitted]

[Khazim] Isayas Afewerki, head of the Eritrean provisional government, has accused you as NIF leader of forming the Eritrean Islamic Jihad Movement and has accused you of trying to destabilize his country. He held Sudan responsible for the infiltration of foreign gunmen across the borders to carry out military operations against his forces. What is your reply to these charges?

[Al-Turabi] First, Afewerki only left Sudan a few years ago. Perhaps he was talking about the past when Sudan had parties and the NIF and before that. The Islamic trends supported the Eritrean liberation movement for dozens of years. Afewerki himself used to visit it (the NIF) and get media coverage from it.

True, the NIF tried to bring together the various (Eritrean) Islamic trends and in fact did so in the Eritrean Islamic Jihad Movement at a time when the Eritreans were forming movements for the liberation of their country.

[Khazim] Why does he accuse you?

[Al-Turabi] Because he was talking about Sudan's old history. The NIF had done him very great services, which he knows very well. I visited him in his home town

after he achieved independence and he visited me more than once in my home after becoming president. Perhaps he got angry with the Jihad Movement and judged it on the basis of what he knew about Sudan. Now the Sudanese Government bans all activities of all the Eritrean movements and fronts except the ruling "Popular Front." [passage omitted]

Iraqi Transport Minister Arrives in Khartoum

EA1502194294 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA)—Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad Khalil arrived in Khartoum yesterday. In a press statement issued after his arrival, he said his visit was one of a series between the two fraternal countries to discuss various issues. His Excellency said that in the field of transport and communications, Iraq was fully prepared to cooperate with Sudan in railways, sea transport, land transport, civil aviation, as well as communications in the interests of the two friendly countries. He expressed the hope that the result of his visit to Sudan would be fruitful and positive in different fields.

Transport Talks Begin

EA1502195794 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA)—Meetings of the official talks between Sudan and Iraq in the field of transport were started here on Tuesday under the co-chairmanship of Iraqi Transport Minister Mr. Ahmad Murtada Khalil and Sudanese Transport Minister Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir ['Abd-al-Latif]. 'Abd-al-Qadir hailed the cooperation between the two countries and the Iraqi support to Sudan despite its critical circumstances.

The Iraqi minister said his visit came as a confirmation of the continuous cooperation between the two countries in the field of transport and condemned the embargo being committed against Sudan and Iraq. He underlined that Iraq realized great achievements following the Gulf war in the field of rehabilitation and installations. Iraq was looking for more cooperation in all fields, he said.

The two ministers visited today Khartoum airport and the Sudanese Airlines Corporation, where they got acquainted with the efforts being made to promote the corporation and the cooperation fields. The Iraqi transport minister expressed readiness to remove all difficulties facing the corporation.

Kuwait

Inclination Toward Cabinet Reshuffle Reported

PM1502150094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri: "Inclination in Kuwait To Reshuffle Cabinet; Denial of Speculations About Government Resignation"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—Dr. Ya'qub Hayati, member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Legislation and Legal Committee, has confirmed that there is an inclination to change some ministerial posts, including some ministers who are National Assembly members and others appointed by the prime minister. He added that these changes comes in response to requests submitted by a number of ministers recently. They asked to be relieved of their ministerial responsibilities.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he pointed out that these requests have not been accepted because the country is going through a critical phase requiring complete cooperation among its members to return the situation to what it was before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

He said that the picture has not yet become clear with regard to the ministers who are going to move to other posts inside the government. He stressed that the change will not include the Interior, Information, and Foreign Ministries.

Dr. Hayati said that "some ministers have not kept pace with the aspirations of the government, the people, and the National Assembly, thus new faces are needed—faces capable of making decisions to reinforce the Kuwaiti citizens' confidence in the government."

However, Deputy Ahmad Baqir, secretary of the National Assembly, has denied recent media reports about a cabinet reshuffle. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that this is "absolutely baseless." [passage omitted]

Oil Production Cut To Boost Prices Contemplated

NC1602142794 Paris AFP in English 1344 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Feb 16 (AFP)—Kuwait is ready to cut oil production as part of a collective agreement to prop up sagging prices, Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said Wednesday [16 February].

Al-Baghli also confirmed that oil ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would meet in the Saudi port of Jeddah next month to discuss prices ahead of OPEC's talks on March 25.

"Kuwait is ready to lower its oil output if other producers commit themselves to reductions," he told AFP

in an interview. "Kuwait is willing to abide by any agreement or decision at the March 25 meeting."

The emirate produces two million barrels per day (b/d) under a six-month quota agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Since the end of the Iraqi occupation of the emirate in February 1991, it had previously violated its quota to press the 12-nation cartel for a higher share.

OPEC oil ministers are due to discuss cutting the official production ceiling of 24.5 million b/d for the second quarter to support prices, which have remained nearly seven dollars below its benchmark of 21 dollars.

The GCC states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates—have offered to trim production if other oil exporters agree to do the same.

Omani Oil minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari said last week that most of the countries he had visited to seek their support for OPEC were willing to cut production.

But he did not specify how much they were ready to cut.

During talks in Doha last week, OPEC president 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah of Qatar and Nigerian Oil Minister Don Etiebet proposed a five to 10 percent reduction in the organisation's October-March ceiling.

Etiebet also had talks with Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir but it was not clear if the kingdom backed the proposed cut.

"I am optimistic that oil prices will improve in the next stage," Baghli said, declining to elaborate.

"Oil prices will be on top of the subjects to be discussed by the GCC oil ministers in Jeddah," he added. "But so far, there is no specific agenda."

GCC states produce more than half of OPEC's oil output and one fifth of the world's. The price fall has hit them hardest as crude accounts for more than 80 percent of their total exports.

Information Minister on Reorganizing Gulf Priorities

PM1502103494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman: "Kuwaiti Information Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Are Seeking To Reorganize Our Gulf Priorities and Working for Posterity"]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has stressed in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he "has never contemplated closing any Kuwaiti newspaper or magazine by an

Information Ministry decision." He said that that "falls under the powers of the court, to which all publication issues are referred."

Expressing his eagerness not to disturb relations between Kuwait and Arab states by publishing reports insulting them, Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah, who is visiting London today, said: "Just as we do not accept the publication of articles or topics insulting Kuwait and its people, it is natural for us to appreciate the position of the states which are not satisfied with what our newspapers are publishing about them."

Shaykh Sa'id, who was Kuwait's ambassador to London and Washington before his appointment as information minister in the current Kuwaiti Government, said that "the Gulf region is experiencing critical conditions caused by the Iraqi regime." He stressed "the need to reorganize our Gulf priorities and seek to unite the Gulf Cooperation Council states, including the military strategy."

Speaking about Iran's role, the Kuwaiti information minister said that Iran is one of the states which should "join us in safeguarding Gulf security and stability."

Shaykh Sa'ud stressed that "we are thinking about the region's conditions now but are working and planning for posterity." He emphasized that "Kuwait is ready for all possibilities that may arise from a change of conditions in Iraq and the downfall of Saddam Husayn's regime."

Czech President Arrives on Visit, Meets Amir

LD1402203094 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Excerpts] At 2000 this evening Czech President Vaclav Havel and the delegation accompanying him arrived at Kuwait international airport for a short visit lasting a few hours. [passage omitted]

After his arrival President Havel paid a visit to his highness the amir at his residence in Tasmana where they held a round of talks.

The minister of amir's affairs [Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad] said that the talks had dealt with a number of issues of mutual concern to the two friendly countries and the most serious vital issues on the international scene. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere characterized by understanding and a spirit of friendship.

Notes Areas of Mutual Concern

LD1402224294 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Czech President Vaclav Havel and his accompanying delegation left the country at 2300 this evening after a short visit to the country. [passage omitted]

President Havel held a news conference at the end of his visit in which he reiterated his country's stance supporting all of Kuwait's just causes and the need for the Iraqi regime to implement all the international resolutions in connection with Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

President Havel said that his visit to Kuwait was aimed at exploring avenues for bolstering the good relations between the two countries in the political and economic spheres. In addition, Havel said that issues of common interest, such as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, were discussed.

Yemen

Military Uncovers Attempt To Assassinate al-Bid in Aden

PM1602154394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Faysal Makram in Sanaa and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden: "Aden: Socialist Party Talks About Foiling Attempt To Shoot Down al-Bid's Plane"]

[Excerpts] Military sources in Aden have confirmed that the city's military intelligence (which is controlled by the Yemeni Socialist Party) [YSP] recently "uncovered a plot to shoot down the civilian aircraft scheduled to take Presidential Council Vice Chairman and YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his party's delegation from Aden to Amman in the next few days to sign the Pledge and Accord Document."

They accused some central security elements attached to the northern governorates and working at the Radfan Camp overlooking Aden airport of preparing to carry out the mission of attacking al-Bid's plane with "shoulder-fired RPG shells" when it takes off from the airport.

They said that "Brigadier General Salih Munsir al-Suyayli, governor of Aden and member of the YSP Political Bureau, ordered the expulsion of the northern members of central security from Aden to the north and the arrest of those who were planning to carry out the attack on al-Bid's aircraft."

Furthermore, military sources in Aden say that "the forces deployed in al-'Anad camp (80 km north of Aden) arrested two Iraqis in the evening of the day before yesterday as they tried to infiltrate the camp, which has a military airfield and some installations." They added that "The Iraqis, who came from the northern governorates, confessed that their mission was to damage a number of military aircraft belonging to the army in the south and to hijack two planes to Iraq."

These developments coincided with the republic decree issued by Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih revoking Prime Minister and YSP Political Bureau Member Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas's decision the day before yesterday

appointing Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad governor of the southern governorate of Abyan in succession to Colonel Yahya al-Ra'i, who was elected member of the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

The General Committee (Political Bureau) of the General People's Congress [GPC] issued a press statement yesterday citing an official source as saying that "At a time when our masses and all the sincere people who care about unity and democracy were looking forward to 10 Ramadan [20 February] for the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document to end the country's plight resulting from the political crisis, our people were surprised by the report carried on Yemeni television's channel two about the divisive decision signed by Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas appointing Brother Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad as governor of Abyan, ignoring the constitution and the local administration law. That decision runs contrary to the principle of the state of law and order and undermines the homeland's higher interests." It appealed to all the political forces to "condemn that attitude" which it described as being "a violation of the Constitution and the law with negative and dangerous consequences harmful to the homeland's stability and democracy." [passage omitted]

Political Forces Dialogue Committee Concludes Agenda

JN1402123794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] At a meeting yesterday in the capital, Sanaa, the Political Forces Dialogue Committee concluded its agenda regarding preparations for the signing of the accord document and guarantees for immediate implementation.

In two meetings on Saturday and Sunday [12, 13 February], the Political Forces Dialogue Committee approved the formation of a committee to consider views regarding the necessary security guarantees to begin implementation.

The Political Forces Dialogue Committee also approved the formation of another committee to prepare the necessary appendices to the document and draft a statement announcing the signing of the document. A third committee will take care of protocol arrangements for the signing ceremony, which will be held in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 10 Ramadan, corresponding to 20 February, per consultations with the brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Political Forces Dialogue Committee agreed to meet next Thursday to see what these committees will come up with and make appropriate decisions.

The Political Forces Dialogue Committee has said it will continue to be in session, in line with the constitutional, legal, and procedural guarantees approved by the committee late last week.

YSP Protests Salih's Order To Cancel South's Decision

JN1602073394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] It appears that differences between the Yemeni president and his deputy have not been completely solved. The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] yesterday issued a statement broadcast over Aden radio protesting President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's order to annul Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas' decision to appoint a new governor of the southern (?Abyan) Governorate.

The YSP, which is led by Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, said that al-'Attas' decision does not contravene the constitution as long as it aims to prevent corruption in the governorate.

The Yemeni presidency regarded the decision as a violation of both the constitution and the law because appointing governors must be effected by joint decisions of the president and the vice president.

It goes without saying that this issue is within the differences which seem to be continuing between the northerners and southerners, between the president and the vice president, or between the two main political parties, the YSP and General People's Congress.

Mutiny Reported in 5th Brigade After Commander Replaced

PM1402140694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] Sanaa, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni military sources have confirmed that a state of mutiny has spread among the personnel of the 5th Brigade, which is stationed in the 'Uman area, north of Sanaa, as a result of a decision to replace their commander in a manner incompatible with the Defense Ministry's regulations, in the context of the complications of the current political crisis in Yemen.

The sources said that the brigade's commander, Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali Shulayl, had left the camp to finalize some matters. In his absence a decision was issued, appointing Colonel Taymas as his replacement. It is worth mentioning that both officers come from Abyan Governorate (in the south). The 5th Brigade is also one of the military units belonging to former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, whose elements emigrated to the north in the wake of the 13 January 1986 incidents.

The sources said that Col. 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, commander of the 1st tank Division and the Yemeni president's half brother, is behind the replacement process, because of his fear of possible contacts between the brigade and Socialist Party leaders, while northern units (loyal to the General People's Congress) see 'Ali Nasir's forces as "friendly units."

Observers believe that the decision to replace the 5th Brigade's commander is an attempt to foment sedition among the sons of Abyan Governorate, to which President 'Ali Nasir belong. But it has resulted in nothing except skirmishes between the brigade's personnel and the tank battalion belonging to the 1st Division, which is stationed in the same camp. As a result, one of the brigade's soldiers was wounded.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a military committee comprised of Col. 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, Col. 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur, and Commander Muzahim went to Sanaa to the 5th Brigade's command to discuss the issue. They discovered that another military delegation had arrived from Aden. An argument took place between the "committee" and the "delegation." It ended up with an agreement to freeze the situation and keep Col. Sulayl in his position, after the brigade's personnel warned against replacing their commander "covertly." They stressed that any decision in this connection should come from Yemeni Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir.

Tribal sources in the 'Umran area have said that the people of the area sympathize with the 5th Brigade's personnel and command, because they are performing their duty in an area deprived of services, even though they are exposed to an undeclared blockade from the military supply organ. Some people describe them as "third-rate military men"—which has caused them to support Defense Minister Brig. Gen. Haytham and consider him their leader in the circumstances of the blockade they are experiencing.

In another development, officials in Sanaa have confirmed the occurrence of a clash between a group of tribesmen who wanted to seize a convoy of [cooking] gas tankers that were heading for the capital and the police forces guarding them. Despite the intensity of the exchange of fire, the authorities have not revealed the number of victims.

Government Tries To Win Release of Chinese Hostages

NC1402122194 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 14 (AFP)—The Yemeni Government is trying to win the release of three Chinese technicians who were kidnapped while helping to build a road in Yemen's rugged northeast, Chinese Embassy officials said here Monday [14 February].

"We hope they will be freed in the next few days," a Chinese diplomat said. "The Yemeni Government is working hard for their release."

The three were kidnapped Saturday morning while working on a road between Hija, 127 kilometers (75 miles) north of Sanaa and Ma'rib, 173 kilometers (100 miles) east of the capital, embassy officials said.

Yemeni sources meanwhile said the Chinese were kidnapped by three people wanted by the police for various murders.

There were no details on what the kidnappers wanted and where they were holding the technicians.

The three were working under the terms of a Yemen-Chinese cooperation accord. In the 1980s China helped the former north Yemen build several roads, including one between Sanaa and Hija.

The Chinese were kidnapped the same day that Ahnum tribesmen in the country's northwest freed three French tourists they had held for 20 days in a bid to force the government to build a road through their region.

Kidnappers Seek Amnesty

NC1502133794 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 15 (AFP)—Three kidnapped Chinese engineers are in the hands of wanted murderers who are demanding that the authorities drop death sentences against them, a Chinese Embassy official said here Tuesday [15 February].

"To free the Chinese, the three Yemeni kidnappers want the government to cancel death sentences pronounced against them in absentia," early in January, second secretary at the embassy Luo Xiao Guang told AFP.

The kidnappers are wanted for several murders, Yemeni sources said Monday.

"No progress was made by the authorities in their talks with the kidnappers," he said.

One of the hostages is chief engineer Yang Yi [name as received], 55, according to the diplomat, who did not name the two others.

The hostages are held by members of the Khawlan tribe in Hajana region, 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Sanaa, he added.

To win their release, the embassy is in contact with the Ministries of Interior and Planning, and with influential Khalwan tribesmen as well, he said.

The engineers were kidnapped Saturday while working on a road project financed by China to link Hajana and Ma'rib, 173 kilometers (100 miles) east of the capital, in the rugged and tribal northeast.

The kidnappers also said they wanted the road construction to stop but they did not explain why, the Chinese diplomat said. Almost the third of the road has already been built, he added.

The Chinese were kidnapped the same day that Ahnum tribesmen in the country's northwest freed three French tourists they had held for 20 days in a bid to force the government to build a road through their region.

MIO Director Reacts to Ekrus Remarks to CNN
JN1602115894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], has expressed amazement over the contradictions contained in the statements Ambassador Rolf Ekrus, executive chairman of the UN Special Commission, made to the U.S. television Cable News Network [CNN], yesterday, Tuesday, 15 February.

In a statement to INA, Lt. Gen. Rashid added that in his statements, Ekrus gave the impression that Iraq continues to withhold information on chemical weapons.

The MIO director urged the chairman of the UN Special Commission to shoulder his responsibilities fairly, to confine himself to the tasks of the UN Special Commission as spelled out in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and to steer clear of the U.S. anti-Iraq political maneuvers and pressures, which have nothing to do with the UN security Council resolutions.

The following is the text of the statement:

MIO Director General Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid has said: We have received with extreme amazement the statements Ambassador Rolf Ekrus, executive chairman of the UN Special Commission, made to CNN on 15 February 1994.

In these statements, Ekrus gave the impression that Iraq continues to withhold part of the information pertaining to chemical weapons. As a matter of fact, Ekrus has made it clear in letters addressed to me that Iraq has provided the required information regarding its previous programs, that this information is credible and comprehensive, and that it is sufficient for the purposes of the UN Special Commission, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Hence, his recent pronouncements and statements to CNN misrepresent facts, and contradict the documents he himself has submitted to the UN Security Council.

Lt. Gen. Rashid said: It has become clear to us, particularly after Iraq accepted Resolution 715 in November 1993, that Ambassador Ekrus makes himself part of the U.S. political maneuvers which seek to prolong the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. Therefore, he makes contradictory statements serving in fact the purpose of U.S. maneuvers.

Rashid continued: We ask the chairman of the Special Commission to shoulder his responsibilities in an objective manner, adhere to the Commission's tasks as defined by the UN Security Council resolutions, and dissociate himself from the U.S. anti-Iraq maneuvers and political pressure which has nothing to do with the Security Council resolutions.

On Ekrus statements on the effects of the blockade on the Iraqi people and his arbitrary criticism of Iraq for not implementing what he called a mechanism presented to it by the United Nations to sell a fixed amount of oil to buy food and medicine under international supervision, Rashid said: First, this subject is not within the jurisdiction of the chairman of the Special Commission. It is within the jurisdiction of the UN general secretariat. Second, Ekrus wants to dissociate himself from being largely responsible for continuing the blockade imposed on Iraq and hence the continuation of the Iraqi people's suffering. This is because under U.S. pressure, Ekrus is reluctant to tell the truth which he knows only too well; namely, that Iraq has abided by UN resolutions. Had he possessed the courage and objectivity required from an international official, he would have presented his report on this issue to the Security Council, thus, leading to the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and ending the Iraqi peoples suffering. The blame he levels at Iraq because it rejects arrangements that infringe on its sovereignty and dignity is blatantly ridiculous.

Ekrus Assailed for Changing Position

*JN1402174894 Baghdad BABEL in Arabic
10 Feb 94 p 1*

[Editorial by Nusrallah al-Dawudi: "The Accused, Self-Contradictory One"]

[Text] The Iraqis have dealt with the accused Ekrus with honesty and good will, avoiding the tricks of politics and the encroachments of the four big powers in the UN corridors. This has been intended to draw attention to the fact that we have frequently stressed, namely, that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments toward the Security Council resolutions.

This fact was confirmed in the statements made by the accused Ekrus. These statements usually begin positively, and those concerned with politics and its secrets clearly understand such positive statements. Thus, the Security Council and its Special Commission should also clearly fulfill their commitments toward Iraq, lift the total embargo of its oil exports, and end the unjust blockade without resorting to a test period. This is because positiveness in international dealings means credibility. Throughout the joint work with the UN Special Commission, Iraq has been credible, particularly within the framework of building confidence, stemming from Iraq's international commitments and the maintenance of independent political and national decision-making.

Has the accused Ekrus managed to move one step forward on the path of this positiveness, which remained the common denominator of all his statements before and after each round of talks held in Baghdad or at the UN headquarters? One who follows events sees the contrary and even senses a contradiction that evokes wonder and astonishment. Days after the talks ended,

the accursed one ignored positiveness and said something that satisfied the four big powers and stimulated the appetite of the agents, the defeatists, and their hired media trumpets run by Zionism.

The accursed Ekeus went back on his recent statements when he was received by the slaves of the Americans in the [Iraqi] governorate of Kuwait. Thus, positiveness turned into differences, and the tears he shed at the al-Rashid Hotel turned into greed for a handful of dollars. Ekeus wanted to ignite a fire and undermine Iraqi steadfastness. But, he did not realize that an Iraqi palm tree will not bow to storms. History will note that Ekeus has sold only the honor of his job, lost himself, and deserves a new nickname in addition to his previous nicknames. Mankind will recall Ekeus as an accursed and self-contradictory one. How bad are his nicknames and his loss of conscience!

Chemical, Biological Weapons Said Hidden in Pipelines

NC1302151494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] To hide them from the eyes of international inspectors, the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn has been transferring its remaining chemical and biological weapons from one place to another. According to people who recently arrived in Amman, the dictatorial regime began using the oil pipelines—out of operation because of the international embargo—in one last attempt to hide its banned weapons.

Saddam Said Deploying Troops Near Kuwait Border

JN1402194694 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Informed sources have said that the tyrant's military units have been deployed 3 km from the border strip with the State of Kuwait in an area between Umm Qasr and Hafar al-Batin. The sources added that Saddam's authorities are now beefing up their forces deployed there. The sources said that these forces, which consist of armored battalions and artillery batteries, are being moved during nighttime from the Governorates of al-Nasiriyah and al-Samawah and from major points in al-Basrah to the border area with Kuwait.

Our sources said that these units, which are mobilized in the border strip with Kuwait, are affiliated with the elite units of the Presidential Guard which Saddam prepared recently following his continuous defeats before the sons of our revolting people.

Saddam Receives Cable From 'Interim' Syrian Command

JN1402130294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the Interim Regional

Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria on the third anniversary of the imperialist-Zionist military aggression.

The cable says: The immortal epic of the Mother of Battles, fought by great Iraq, has charted a course for the Arab nation to prove its cultural and historical presence and safeguard its rights and dignity in a changing world dominated by forces of evil, falsehood, and serfdom, led by the United States and its ally, world Zionism.

The cable adds: By virtue of your God-given faith, leadership, and wisdom and the people's deep love and true allegiance, you, the inspired knight, were qualified to lead this major, historic confrontation. Tyranny and aggression were defeated at your own hands. In your sacred name, strugglers and fighters uttered the biggest "No" in the history of mankind, and through you the voice of human justice rose above all other voices and the banner of God is Great fluttered over all other banners.

Columnist Ridicules 'Honor' Displayed by al-Asad

JN1402104494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Feb 94 p 8

["AL-THAWRAH Diary" column by Munir 'Abd-al-Karim: "When Words Lose Their Sense"]

[Text] Indeed, Prophet Muhammad uttered the truth when he said: "Astrologers are liars, even if their predictions turn out to be true."

Even if their predictions are true, astrologers do not mean to tell the truth. Their predictions are lies based on probability, which could, by sheer coincidence, be true on certain occasions.

By the same token, traitors are also liars, even if they tell the truth. One might hear nice words and admire them. However, once one finds out who uttered these words, their sense is lost and their beauty turns into insults and vulgar expressions.

"We have fought honorably, and we make peace honorably." Beautiful words, right? You will laugh when you find out who said these words and when. The speaker is Hafiz al-Asad and the occasion is his meeting with his new lord, Clinton.

It is common knowledge that Hafiz al-Asad had no honor on two occasions during which fighting was truly honorable. The first is the June war, when al-Asad was defense minister, and gave the Golan as a gift to the Zionist entity. The second is the October war when Damascus was about to be captured; had it not been for the chivalrous Iraqi leadership and its heroic army that came to the rescue. The Iraqi army removed the enemy and drew up a plan for attack and infiltration into the enemy's defenses. However, only hours before carrying out the plan, it was surprised that the "honorable

fighter" had accepted a cease-fire, because its premeditated objective was "provocation" rather than liberation.

We do not want to do injustice to the man. Therefore, we testify that he displayed "honor" on many occasions in which fighting was not honorable.

He had the "honor" of destroying the city of Hamah and killing 25,000 of its people and supervising the massacre of the Tadmur desert prison.

He had the "honor" of killing Palestinians and the national movement in Lebanon since the 'Ayn al-Rummanah events in 1975 and up until now.

He had the "honor" of watching, and sometimes assisting in, the Zionist army's attacks on Lebanon.

He had the "honor" of watching the massacre of the Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila.

The highest order of "honor" won by Hafiz al-Asad was through two stands in which he expressed his "national honor" which he brags about more than extremist nationalist leaders.

The first, when he "honorably" sided by the Iranian aggression against Iraq for eight years. The second, when he had the "honor" of participating, along with the allied forces, in the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

A person displaying all this "honor" in his fights will definitely have the "honor" of throwing himself into the lap of the cousins (Rabin and Peres). Even if the Golan returns through a disgraceful settlement, al-Asad still bears the disgrace of surrendering it and leaving it for 27 years without liberation. We are here talking about usurped Syrian Arab territory, and not Jerusalem, Bay-san, or Nazareth.

Indeed, traitors are liars, even if they tell the truth.

'Aziz Receives PLO Executive Committee Member

JN1502102394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and official in charge of the Arab Liberation Movements bureau, this evening received 'Ali Ishaq, PLO Executive Committee member. The meeting was attended by the chief of the RCC's Arab Liberation Movements bureau.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Yemeni Party Official

JN1502155294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, the official in charge of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Foreign Relations Bureau, has said: Our adherence to basic

national and pan-Arab values and principles has safeguarded Iraq, despite the ferocious, large-scale brutal aggression and the continued unjust embargo.

In a meeting today with a delegation from the Yemeni Revolutionary Democratic Party, led by Muhammad al-Dughaysh, the party's secretary general, Tariq 'Aziz added: Our conflict with imperialism and Zionism is a long cultural conflict. It will inevitably end in victory for the forces of freedom, justice, and progress.

Al-Dughaysh praised the Iraqi people's steadfastness, courage and cohesion behind their leader, President Saddam Husayn, in the face of the aggressors. He praised Iraq's reconstruction of what had been destroyed by the sinful aggression.

The two officials discussed relations between the two parties and ways of promoting them to serve common Arab objectives.

'Program of Action' Signed

JN1502152394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Yemeni Revolutionary Democratic Party today signed a program of action and cooperation to enhance and cement relations of brotherliness, steadfastness, and friendship between the two friendly parties and peoples.

The program was signed for the Ba'th Party by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, chief of the Ba'th Party's Foreign Relations Bureau, and for the Yemeni party by Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Dughaysh, the party's secretary general. The program urges coordinating efforts at Arab and international forums and conferences and educating Arab and world public opinion about the serious, tragic effects of the crime of the unjust embargo against the Iraqi people and using all means to lift it.

The program provides for exchanging visits and expertise to ensure continued communication between the two parties in the interest of common pan-Arab struggle and the Arab nation's objectives of liberation and progress. The program provides for supporting the Arab Popular Forces Conference and contributing to its activities and decisions.

Egypt's Revocation of ACC Membership Viewed

JN1602094994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] On 16 February 1989, the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], grouping Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen, was launched in Baghdad. The ACC set a good example for promoting joint Arab action in the interest of the Arab nation and its fateful causes.

The launching of the ACC was an enlightened and rational response to the challenges and dangers facing

the nation, particularly after the intensification of military conflicts in the region and after the pan-Arab and national security of ACC members was jeopardized, not to mention the growing inclination of world states to establish economic groupings to protect their national interests.

The announcement launching the ACC was widely welcomed and supported by the Arabs. People maintained that Iraq's ACC membership, given its powerful national and pan-Arab weight, would prompt the ACC to take a serious course in joint Arab action. That is why the obstruction of the ACC work was one of the objectives of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy, to which Iraq was exposed. The Egyptian regime's announcement to suspend Egypt's ACC membership has confirmed the U.S. desire to thwart the ACC's noble pan-Arab objectives. The Egyptian regime's decision was met with extensive and broad opposition in Egypt. This opposition was reflected in the arguments exchanged by the Egyptian People's Assembly members when they debated the future of the ACC on 8 February 1994. The Assembly's debate on the issue showed a massive support for Iraq. The deputies condemned the embargo, and urged Arab states to lift the embargo on Iraq.

A large number of Egyptian parliamentarians urged support for Iraq so that it may confront plots, and so that it may become, once again, the mainstay of pan-Arab resurgence. The National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] is one of the parties that expressed support for Iraq. NPUG representative Khalid Muhyi-al-Din asserted that the embargo is aimed at destroying Iraq and destabilizing the Arabs.

For his part, Fikri al-Jazzar, speaking for independents at the People's Assembly, urged the Arab states to shoulder their pan-Arab responsibilities, and to wage a battle to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Hence, the positions of the people's representatives were made clear when they debated the future of the ACC. They emphasized that the role of the ACC must be rehabilitated at the current phase, particularly since it constitutes a nucleus for Arab unity. They added that foreign pressures must be shunned, because foreigners deem any Arab grouping a threat to their interests and evil objectives. This was explained by Diya'-al-Din Dawud, secretary general of the Nasirite Party, who asserted that if it revokes its ACC membership, Egypt will confirm that this will be in response to foreign and colonialist dictates, which aim to isolate Egypt from the Arab homeland.

Speaker Meets British War Crimes Committee Member

JN1502134294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, today received Hugh Stevens, of the British committee investigating international war crimes, who is on a visit to Iraq.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih told him the West must understand that the Iraqi people, who stood up to the largest aggressive force in history, are solidly behind their wise leadership. The Iraqis, he emphasized, are determined to defend their country's sovereignty, and have confidence in their political choices. The Iraqis will not stand for any interference in their own affairs.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih said the United States is working to perpetuate its control over the international community; to advance its own and Western strategic ambitions in the Arab world. He urged the international community to work hard to promote better international relations.

Mr. Stevens indicated that his visit to Iraq was useful in that he was able to see firsthand the Iraqi people's distress caused by the relentless sanctions. He was also impressed by Iraq's rehabilitation effort to repair the damage wrought by the aggression. He will use the information gleaned from his visit to Iraq in a political file geared toward British public opinion.

Spokesman on U.S. 'Mysterious' Gulf War Disease

JN1102213094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1731 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—An official spokesman stated in Baghdad today that, since the news blackout it has sought to impose on the mysterious disease that afflicted U.S. troops in the Gulf war, the U.S. Administration has, for some time, been engaged in a drive to mislead the American public and come up with fantastic explanations to ward off legal and criminal responsibility.

The spokesman said scientific U.S. and European circles emphasize that the mysterious disease that U.S. and British servicemen caught in the Gulf war could be traced to the intensive use by American forces of uranium-coated projectiles mounted on tanks and antitank aircraft.

An official spokesman for the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health recently admitted nuclear radiation was detected in tank and truck chassis north of Kuwait City, the Iraqi spokesman noted. This is in addition to reports published by U.S. circles, like the Nevada-based RURAL ALLIANCE [name as received] about attempts by the U.S. Department of Defense to suppress the side effects of these substances on the crews manning U.S. tanks and aircraft to avert insubordination.

The Iraqi spokesman's statements are in reaction to an allegation made by Senator Donald Riegle before the Senate yesterday that, in the late '80's, a U.S. firm sold Iraq the biological substances that it might have used in the war.

The U.S. senator's contentions are yet another silly and pointless attempted whitewash to deflect attention and influence the course of investigations. The senator, the

spokesman added, might have sought to bring the real explanations to light and used his legal powers to bear instead of lying to Congress and the U.S. public.

UN Informed of 'Further Violations' of Airspace

JN1502121894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] New York, 15 Feb (INA)—Iraq has informed the general secretariat of the United Nations of further violations of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and provocation and dropping thermal flares.

Iraq's permanent UN delegate, in a letter to Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, said that from 1 to 10 February, 841 sorties were conducted over large areas of northern and southern Iraq.

Two T.S.R.S1 [as received] American reconnaissance planes violated Iraq's airspace on 3 and 6 February, flew over al-Nasiriyah, al-'Amarah, al-Samawah, al-Jalibah, al-Ratawi, Qal'at Sukkar, and (?al-Busayyah), and then headed to Saudi Arabia.

A hostile plane on 7 February dropped three thermal flares over the Ba'shiqah district in the Governorate of Ninawa.

Turkish Government Urged To Save 'Eroding Economy'

JN1402180694 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 10 Feb 94 p 8

["Good Morning" column by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid]

[Text] Turkey has the right to move in many directions to save its eroding economy as a result of the economic blockade on Iraq. Among the neighborly countries, Turkey benefited the most from the exportation of Iraqi oil. Furthermore, it was more secure than the other countries because its borders with Iraq were under the control of the central government [in Baghdad]. Such security does not exist at all now because of the miserable situation in northern Iraq. Turkey's attempts to coordinate with the so-called Kurdistan Front as well as its relations with al-Talabani and Barzani did not save it from terrorist operations, explosions, and assassinations. These acts are U.S. and Western commodities that are exported to the closest friends, not out of revenge, but to maintain their subservience.

Diplomatic sources said that the Turkish prime minister was serious in presenting its country's problem to the leaders of the UN Security Council permanent states. In fact, she presented Turkey's economic problems and damage resulting from the sanctions on Iraqi oil exportation. It seems, however, that the efforts of the prime minister either cooled down or were confronted by U.S.-Gulf obstacles.

Turkish journalists, whom we met in Baghdad, ask the following question: How long will Turkey's hand remain extended to the Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and the rulers of Kuwait? Can these emirates feed Turkish citizens and provide them with basic needs and a secure life?

The violence that prevails in Turkey, particularly in Anatolia, demonstrates the feeling of humiliation, poverty, and subservience. The Turks, who live along the international highway that leads to the Iraqi borders, are now regretting the time when they were their own masters. They planted their lands and sold their commodities and agricultural products to the neighborly country with dignity and a feeling of reassurance about their future.

The Turkish citizens know full well that their country's future lies in a firm trade exchange with Iraq and in common historical interests between the two countries. No donor state can resolve the problem of a country like Turkey because it is an economic-security issue to which Iraq is a direct party. Turkish officials know well that Iraq spares no effort to promote its relations with its neighbors, provided that those neighbors are free in adopting their decisions and take into consideration the interests of their own people, not other objectives that are dictated to them from outside.

Mrs. Ciller raised Turkey's suppressed cry regarding the effects of the economic blockade. Others should understand that the entire Turkish people will raise a louder cry if the disregard of Turkey's relations and historical relations with Iraq continues.

Saddam's Son-in-Law Undergoes Treatment in Amman

NC1202155494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Well-informed sources in London and Amman yesterday disclosed that [Minister of Industry and Minerals] Husayn Kamil Hasan, the tyrant's son-in-law and the man in charge of military production, is undergoing treatment for a pernicious disease [euphemism for cancer] in an Amman hospital.

[Words indistinct] Kamil was urgently flown by a military helicopter and admitted to al-Husayn Medical Center in Amman.

Reportedly Refused Entry to Paris

PM1502151494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Feb 94 p 5

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Western diplomatic sources in Amman announced yesterday that the French Government has rejected the Iraqi Government's request to grant Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, an entry visa to France. Paris attributed this to political and security reasons. Meanwhile

other reports said that Lt. Gen. al-Majid underwent brain surgery in the al-Husayn Medical Center in Amman. Iraqis in Amman said that the Iraqi president's son-in-law and cousin went into a coma and was partially paralyzed last week. Urgent medical tests were conducted and he was immediately moved to Amman to be treated by Jordanian doctors. Attempts were made for five days to cure him but all failed and the deep coma continued. As a result, doctors had to operate on him the day before yesterday to remove a brain tumor. The Iraqi president's son-in-law is accompanied by a large security team which has been joined by the Iraqi ambassador to Amman and a number of his aides in the Industry Ministry and the Military Industrialization Organization, which al-Majid heads.

Lt. Gen. al-Majid is a special adviser to the Iraqi president with the rank of minister. He was appointed defense minister in 1991. He has been chairman of the Military Industrialization Organization since 5 September 1993. He has been in charge of the Military Industrialization Organization and is considered responsible for the programs for the chemical, bacterial, nuclear, and missile weapons the United Nations is dismantling.

Desertions Increase; Rewards Given to Informers

NC1502170194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Desertions have been on the increase lately. More soldiers are refusing to continue their military service, particularly in southern and northern Iraq. Saddam's regime has tried frantically to contain this phenomenon. It has allocated a reward of 3,000 dinars to anyone who provides information about a deserter from military service. If the informer guides the authorities to the deserter's location the reward becomes 10,000 dinars. The regime's measures follow attempts to control desertion that failed despite its seizing the movable and immovable properties of deserters and punishing the families that give them refuge.

Mujahidin Claim of Attack on Regime Company

NC1502171994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] The Islamic revolution mujahidin have confronted a special unit of the regime's security forces known as the emergency company. The company was trying to arrest an innocent citizen from the area of (al-Sajiyah), which belongs to the district of (al-Shifayij) in the governorate of al-Nasiriyah. The operation resulted in the killing of the captain who commanded the company and two mercenaries. Other people were hurt in the operation. One of the vehicles used by the attacking force was burned.

A group of mujahidin fighters dealt a punitive military blow to the headquarters of Saddam's forces in (al-Mudaynah)

district in the governorate of al-Basrah using 60-mm mortars, hitting military locations and the (al-Fathiyah) checkpoint. It also killed or wounded regime men.

Leaflets Urging Rebellion Reportedly Distributed

NC1502164094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Thousands of leaflets opposing the regime have been distributed during the past few days in the governorates of al-Basrah and al-'Amarah and the districts and subdistricts belonging to them. These leaflets contain instructions and calls to the Iraqi people and Army to rebel against tyrant Saddam's regime and to cut off the road before the cliques of terrorism and crime that want to destroy Iraq and humiliate its people through starvation and oppression.

This was revealed by our sources in south Iraq in a report in which they said that groups of Islamic Resistance men distributed revolutionary leaflets in the city of al-Basrah and the district of al-Qurnah. The sources added that the biggest drop took place at the end of last week. It included the district of al-Majarr al-Kabir, Qal'at Salih, al-Maymunah, the city of al-'Amarah, and the subdistricts of al-Salam and Nahr 'Udayl, which belong to the governorate of al-'Amarah.

The antiregime leaflets were also distributed in the districts of (al-Mudaynah), al-Qurnah, and al-Dayr, the subdistricts of al-'Uzayr, (Salhah), and al-Huwayr, and the city of al-Basrah, all of which belong to al-Basrah Governorate.

Our sources affirmed that the distribution has caused a big uproar among the regime's circles. It has forced it to place its forces on alert and carry out large-scale search operations in these areas and arrest citizens.

Demonstrations Against 'Sabotage Cliques' Reported

JN1402115794 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 11 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] The residents of the Birah Makrun complex have staged a large demonstration in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in front of the offices of the agent and sabotage cliques. The residents demanded redressing their living conditions and daily suffering, noting that they have not received food supplies for months. In addition, electricity and other basic services are absent.

Another demonstration was staged at the Shawrash complex in Chamchamal District, during which demonstrators demanded ensuring food supplies to them. An exchange of fire ensued with the demonstrators, prompting the sabotage cliques to close the Chamchamal-al-Sulaymaniyah road.

Agent and sabotage cliques receive food supplies and then sell them on the black market. They are also stealing electric wires and transformers and smuggling them across the border, thus causing a blanket power cutoff in the region.

Rabin Briefs Committee on Talks' Developments

TA1502160694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400
GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today appeared before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Rabin said he did not believe that the government's policy in the political process was leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Tamar Asalem reports.

[Begin recording] [Asalem] Strident tones were heard at today's meeting of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. For the first time, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented the agreed upon map of the Gaza Strip, with the main roads clearly marked out, to the committee members. Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin complained that although he had asked to see the map at an earlier date, his request was been turned down. MK Begin asserted that if Nabil Sha'th could view the map, the committee members should at least have the same right. This is the map that was signed in Cairo, the prime minister explained. Rabin nevertheless said he believed that the Palestinians would still make an attempt to change several details. I do not feel that what we are doing must necessarily lead to a Palestinian state, Rabin said. We are trying to let the Palestinians run their own lives without harming the security of the Israeli settlements.

As for Syria, Rabin said that all Israel's attempts to launch either public or secret talks had been rejected. The Syrians must demonstrate their desire and readiness to reach an agreement.

[Rabin] Syria's leadership is not doing what is necessary in order to demonstrate its sincere desire for peace to the Israeli public. I do not expect al-Asad to be as daring as the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat who visited Jerusalem; however, there are still many ways that the Syrian Government can show its desire for peace.

[Asalem] Rabin nevertheless added that he had reason to believe that once an agreement was reached with the Syrians, it would be signed independently of the negotiations with the Palestinians or Jordanians. I will not divulge the reasons for my assessment, Rabin said. Against the background of the talks which are resuming today, the prime minister reviewed developments on the various negotiating tracks.

[Rabin] As for Jordan, I believe there are practical issues on which we can make progress with the Jordanians, and I am sure that the fact that we sent water and environmental experts indicates that there are areas in which we can make progress. With Syria we shall wait and see. We can of course exchange views with the Lebanese, but I find it hard to believe that Lebanon will move forward without Syria.

[Asalem] The prime minister also addressed the recent spate of terrorist attacks. He reiterated that Israel would continue to wage a ruthless war against the perpetrators

of terrorist attacks while continuing to negotiate with those elements that had abandoned terrorism. As for the release of Palestinian prisoners, Rabin said that such a step would be implemented in accordance with yet to be defined categories and would be linked to progress in the negotiations. All previous defense ministers made goodwill gestures on national holidays, Rabin said, noting that he did not remember any holiday when prisoners were not released as a goodwill gesture. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 15 February reports that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that if the PLO attempts to conduct an independent foreign policy, he would regard this a violation of the agreement with Israel just as he would if the PLO announced the establishment of a Palestinian state. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Rabin made the remark in an appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

["Upon emerging from the session, the prime minister said that Syria is not even trying to show the Israeli public that it is interested in peace. According to him, the Israeli public would have considered it a sign of a Syrian desire for peace had Damascus accepted the request of Knesset Member Darawahah to head a delegation of Israeli Arabs who wished to convey their condolences to the Syrian president over the death of his son.

["Our correspondent notes that during the committee session there were sharp verbal exchanges between the Likud members and the prime minister over the affair of the settlements of Dugit and Netzarim."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 15 February further cites Rabin as telling the Knesset committee that "those wishing to leave Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and return to live within the boundaries of the State of Israel will not receive any compensation because the government is not interested in encouraging them to leave. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister noted that recently, some 110 million shekels had been allocated for defense measures for the Jewish settlements in Judeaea and Samaria."]

Rabin on Lebanon, 'Right To Protect' Interests

TA1602061994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin yesterday disclosed that there have been U.S. efforts to ease tensions in southern Lebanon. But the premier said Israel reserves the right to protect her interests.

[Begin Rabin recording] There were American talks with the Syrians, with the Lebanese, and with the Israelis. I will not elaborate what were in this talks. Israel has explained its position: We will continue to act in accordance to our decisions what is good, what is needed to achieve peace to the Galilee and security to our forces and to the SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces in the

security zone. I am fully aware that Syria could restrain Hizballah, but Syria did it for 10 days before the Geneva summit meeting between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad. Since then we see escalation in the activities by Hizballah against our forces in the security zone. [end recording]

Peres Promises Close Supervision of Immigration

TA1602115294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset plenum that Israel did not forfeit its right to supervise the Palestinians' efforts to encourage illegal immigration in the territories. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Peres was responding to queries by several Knesset members claiming that the arrangements on the border crossings would allow the Palestinians to carry out the right of return. Peres said that if the Palestinian leadership violates the agreements Israel will implement sanctions, including summarily preventing Palestinian entrance by resorting to the right of veto Israel was given in the agreement.

The foreign minister said that last year approximately 300,000 Palestinians entered the territories for summer visits. He admitted that supervision of their exit at the end of their visits is not perfect.

France's Juppe Continues Visit, Meets Palestinians

Further on Rabin, Peres, Weizman Meetings

TA1502124394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe yesterday held political meetings with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, President Ezer Weizman, and Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. In his meetings with the Israeli leaders, Juppe expressed France's intention to strengthen bilateral relations and also discussed the peace process. [passage omitted]

Juppe stressed in his meeting with Rabin the tightening of defense ties between the two countries. He said that the visit by French Defense Minister Francois Leotard next month "would spur cooperation in the fields of research, development, and technology. There are many contingency plans, and the time has come to look to air them out, and begin to consider their implementation." Prior to Leotard's visit, the director of France's defense procurement agency (DGA) will arrive in Israel.

Peres, who fathered the defense ties with France when they peaked in the '50's, welcomed France's intention to renew the security dialogue "which was severed for many years." Juppe also expressed support for setting up

a political-strategic dialogue in joint Foreign Ministry working groups. [passage omitted]

Peres told his guest that Israel will not compromise in the talks with the Palestinians on issues linked to the security of its citizens, and that the latest terrorist acts only sharpen the need to be more careful about the security aspects of the agreement. Referring to the Syrian track, Peres said that he returned less optimistic from his trip to the United States. "It is our feeling that the Syrian president did not hand down new guidelines to the head of his delegation to the Washington talks," Peres said.

Juppe agreed with Peres that the Syrians need to make more progress in the negotiations. He said that France's message to his Arab interlocutors is clear: encourage progress in the negotiations. "France is leading the efforts to expand economic aid to the territories and the entire region," Juppe said, and stressed that his country attaches a great deal of importance to the multilateral track and will continue to play a leading role there. Peres expressed satisfaction with the French contribution to the multilaterals and said that the private sector must be encouraged to join the inter-government activity. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 15 February in a page 2 report by Moti Bassok, Dan Avidan, and Mikhal Sela] adds that "Juppe yesterday noted that France expanded its financial aid to the Palestinians. The scope of the permanent aid via the EC is 20 percent of the EC's total aid to the Palestinians. In addition, France helps public institutions and volunteer organizations. Last year total direct French aid to the Palestinians reached 12 million francs, or \$ 2.5 million. France last year also handed out 18 million francs to the UN Relief and Works Agency.]

Juppe Pledges Support to Palestinians

TA1502124694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe met today with Palestinian representatives at Orient House in East Jerusalem. Following the meeting, Juppe told reporters that France would continue to support the peace process. In particular, the foreign minister said, France would contribute funds to the Palestinians, in addition to the 500 million ECU's already pledged by the European Committee.

[Begin recording] [Juppe] Yes, we have decided to implement a new protocol of 60 million francs in 1994 for the occupied territories. [end recording]

Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni, who attended the meeting, told reporters he believed the recent spate of terror attacks could be better handled if the Palestinians controlled the areas. Al-Husayni agreed that support among Palestinians for the peace process had dwindled, but was convinced that things could change.

[Al-Husayni] There is less support because nothing is implemented on the ground. In the moment that there

will be implementation on the ground, I believe that the Palestinian people will support. The Palestinian people stopped to believe words and sentences; they would like to see something on the ground. [end recording]

Al-Husayni: Meeting With Juppe 'Positive'

JN1502133094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Feb 94

[From the "With the Midday Events" feature]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has met with an East Jerusalem delegation led by Faysal al-Husayni. Talks dealt with the French aid to Palestinians during the forthcoming self-rule period. Our correspondent Ahmad 'Ubaydat reports on this meeting:

[Begin recording] ['Ubaydat] The French Government is committed to supporting the peace process and helping the Palestinians in all domains in order to successfully establish their self-rule. This was stated by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe during his meeting with some Palestinian figures at the Palestinian delegation's headquarters today. Juppe said: Today's meeting was cordial and positive. As you know, the French Government has for long been calling for and supporting the idea of direct dialogue between Israel and the PLO. This has actually been achieved following the signing of the principles agreement and the mutual recognition. The minister also discussed France's efforts in this regard, particularly its contribution to economic development in the territories.

Faysal al-Husayni voiced optimism over this meeting. He said:

[Al-Husayni] In fact, the meeting was very positive. They talked about their clear political position on the peace process as a whole and on the issue of Jerusalem. They also expressed their readiness to develop the aid extended to us, whether it is financial aid or training assistance.

['Ubaydat] The French foreign minister left for the Gaza Strip to acquaint himself with the situation there. He will then return to Jerusalem. [end recording]

Juppe 'Shocked' by Conditions in Camps

LD1502191494 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1800 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Alain Juppe today ended his tour in the Middle East. Juppe toured the Gaza Strip under a very hot sun today. He visited Palestinian camps where living conditions shocked him.

[Begin Juppe recording] When one walks through these camps, such as the Shati camp, when one sees this school, one realises how much should be done. The living conditions in these camps are not as required by human dignity. We should change them if we want the population to believe in the peace process now under way. There is some kind of race against time at the

moment. France has for so many years been present and helping in the occupied territories. We have decided in 1994 to intensify this aid. However, the mobilization of the entire international community is needed.

I hope that what was announced in Washington a few months ago will be implemented in the field. I have repeatedly stated France's message regarding the right of the Palestinians to their land and self-determination, as well as dialogue. We should help all those who are involved in this peace process and believe in it. From my talks here I have gathered that things will of course be difficult, but there is no other way. This [peace process] is irreversible and we have to go forward. [end recording]

Juppe Urges Adherence to Accord Schedule

LD1602093094 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0700 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Alain Juppe spoke about peace at the end of his three-day visit to Israel. The French foreign minister would like the Israeli Government and the PLO to keep to the schedule of the agreement signed in Washington on 13 September of last year. Otherwise, Juppe said, the supporters of war may have the last word:

[Begin Juppe recording] A failure would be a tragedy; everyone agrees about that. Everything must be done in order to have every chance of succeeding. I have already said that time does not work for those who want peace; it works for those against it. We believe that the announced schedule must be kept to as much as possible. I hope that a global agreement on Palestinian autonomy and its implementation will be reached in the near future.

I believe that the global atmosphere must be changed, that measures of detente and trust must be developed. This is why, when I went to Gaza, I advocated the freezing of settlements in the occupied territories, as well as the imminent release and rehabilitation of prisoners. I would like to add, however, that I also understand Israel's concern after the historic leap that was made last September. I understand the concern of the people for their security. [end recording]

That was Alain Juppe speaking in Jerusalem last night during his news conference recorded by Pierre Weill.

Ambassador to Europe Interviewed on Peace Process

BR1502135294 Brussels L'ECHO in French 15 Feb 94 p 5

[Interview with Mordekhay Drori, Israeli ambassador to the European Communities, by Olivier Gosset; place and date not given: "Mideast: Development Must Go Hand in Hand With Peace Process"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] A few days after the agreement on security signed last Wednesday [9 February] in Cairo by PLO Leader

Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Israelis and Palestinians started a new session of negotiations in Taba (Sinai) yesterday to draw up a comprehensive agreement on the methods of implementing autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. These preliminary talks relate to the composition of the Palestinian police force which will be deployed in the area following the Israeli withdrawal. Other discussions relating in particular to the transfer of civilian powers and the release of the Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons (almost 9,000 according to the PLO, more according to the United Nations), are also due to start shortly.

Mordekhai Drori, ambassador at the Israeli Mission to the European Communities, assesses the development of the peace process in the region. While the impetus of reconciliation does not seem to be waning between the Palestinians and Israelis, he reaffirmed the enormity of the task still to be accomplished.

[Gosset] Are you still optimistic about the peace process as a whole?

[Drori] Optimistic, but also cautious. People underestimate the difficulty, especially the practical difficulty, of the solutions to be found for the many problems between us and the Arab world. Moreover, it is much more complicated with the Palestinians than with the Syrians. With the Palestinians, we are intertwined with each other, there are no borders. And, in addition to that, there are economic problems.

With Syria, the problems are less complicated because there are borders. But the solution to these problems is extremely complicated because we do not really know what the Syrians' real intentions are, whether they agree to sign a peace agreement with all that that involves: Diplomatic and cultural relations, trade. Or whether they just want one agreement without any other purpose. When we have the answer to this very complex question, we can move forward.

[Gosset] With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad finally had to abandon his dreams of strategic parity with Israel. And he probably realized that he could be seriously outclassed...

[Drori] That did have a decisive influence. It is one of the keys to the Near East affair. Whether willingly or unwillingly, the Arab countries relied militarily, economically, and politically on the Soviet Union. Because of its collapse, they no longer have that support. If a new conflict arose, they could no longer count on that unconditional aid. This fear has virtually abolished the risk of a military attack by the Arab countries on Israel. In addition, there is only one superpower left in the world—the United States. The Syrians have clearly understood that if they wish to be integrated into the international world and develop their economy, they must find a means of reconciliation with Washington. And this reconciliation depends on the peace agreement with Israel.

[Gosset] Many economic development projects have been mentioned. Which are those which can really be implemented?

[Drori] For a European, it is very difficult to appreciate the lack of multiregional infrastructure in the Middle East.

For you, it is perfectly natural to take your car and drive from Brussels to Paris, or to telephone from one country to another, and to watch foreign television channels. All that is desperately lacking in the Middle East because the countries in the region—especially Israel—have been cut off from each other. I therefore do not see any regional development and development among countries unless there are regional activities.

Several fundamental projects ought to remain: Road and railroad communications, telecommunications, joint projects in the energy sphere. One problem has a very marked political character, and that is water: Because there is an overall shortage, and a fair distribution of this resource in the region is needed.

It is clear that all this can only develop if there is an agreement in the region. But we must not expect the peace agreement to be signed in order to make preparations. We must start now.

[Gosset] Following the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1979, did this kind of development take place subsequently, even on a limited scale?

[Drori] No, unfortunately not, aside from a few exceptions. We bought and still buy Egyptian oil. But that did not go further, mainly for political reasons: Egypt being the only Arab country to have signed a peace agreement with Israel, there were reservations about giving too obvious a character to that agreement. Also, it was not possible to launch a real regional project if the other countries stayed away.

[Gosset] What is the impact of the economic boycott by Arab countries on the Israeli economy?

[Drori] There are no figures and I think that those who give figures are mistaken (the figure of \$3 million has sometimes been mentioned—L'ECHO editor's note), because it is impossible to cost deals which have never been made for fear of the boycott.

Let us not talk about the "primary" boycott, in other words the boycott between Israel and the Arab countries. The main problem is the "secondary" boycott, in other words all the entrepreneurs and all the companies which have been threatened with not being able to do business if they did business with Israel. In view of the size of the Arab countries, the choice has mainly been made in favor of the Arab countries. Examining the present trend, I think that this kind of boycott is being weakened. It has not stopped but should vanish if there is a general agreement.

[Gosset] How does Israel manage to handle the arrival of new immigrants?

[Drori] An immigrant who arrives in Israel receives housing from the government. Or he is helped to pay his rent for one or two years. He receives an allowance during the period in which he is looking for work. It is a huge burden, but we are used to it because we have always faced immigration and the country is organized accordingly.

Around 500,000 people have arrived and several hundred thousand more are expected. In the long term, it is an extraordinary source of wealth, because many of them are highly qualified: Engineers, doctors... Professions which require years of training. In the short term, when you see, for instance, 5,000 doctors arriving, which will double the number of practitioners in the country, there has to be retraining—which is sometimes tragic in the personal sphere, but necessary at national level—and work has to be created for others. This all requires an enormous amount of work, which has borne fruit because unemployment resulting from immigration has fallen.

Government To Debate Sending Troops to Congo

AB1602094494 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 15 Feb 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" Program]

[Text] The Congolese authorities' plans to restore security in the capital after months of bloody communal clashes have hit another obstacle, and it is all because of an Israeli connection. The Knesset is due to debate the sending of dozens of Israeli soldiers to Congo on the invitation of President Lissouba's government but the idea has not gone down too well particularly because it is being put together by a private company. From Jerusalem, John David reports:

[Begin recording] [David] Leftwing Israeli politicians were alerted to the affair when parents complained that their sons were being sent to Africa to a conflict they knew nothing about. A private Israeli company, Levdan, has been recruiting some 60 former Israeli servicemen to go to Congo. Their leader is said to be a retired brigadier general who was commander of the Israeli forces in Southern Lebanon.

Twenty-five Israelis are already said to be in Congo with a further 40 due to join them later this week. Some Israeli weaponry may be included in the deal as well. When politicians investigated the matter they were assured that Levdan had been given all the correct permits by the Israeli Foreign and Defense Ministries. The permits are apparently only given if Israelis are working for the host government and won't be directly involved in combat.

Naomi Hazan of the leftist center Meretz Party, which is in the ruling coalition, is not happy with the way the

matter is being handled. Ms. Hazan said Israel should not become embroiled in the domestic affairs of other states, especially on the side of potentially unstable governments. If Israel wants to undertake military cooperation, she said, it should be done formally and not through a private company. Ms. Hazan believes that the permits were issued through what she described as the old boy network with the main incentives being economics.

Other politicians belonging to the Meretz Party have objected that Israeli foreign policy should be driven by financial instead of political objectives. Even the critics are avoiding branding the former Israeli servicemen mercenaries. They seem to have accepted the government's assurances that they won't be involved in combat. Israel is particularly sensitive to accusations that it is supporting mercenaries. In the 1980's, so-called Israeli security companies were accused of supplying mercenaries to help train Colombian death squads on behalf of drug dealers. [end recording]

IDF Soldiers To Go to Africa To Join UN Force

TA1602061794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0300
GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Israel agrees in principle to join the UN's peace-keeping forces. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports this has been decided in a session chaired by Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin on a UN request that Israel send a Medical Corp unit to Angola. Later this week Deputy Minister Beilin will meet UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali for discussing the location to which the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] representatives are to be sent. The place will be one of the conflict ridden areas in Africa. Our correspondent notes that Israel prefers to send soldiers to areas in which it has strategic interests, such as the Horn of Africa.

Arab Shot Dead by IDF During Dispersal of Riot

TA1502083094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800
GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] A local youth was shot dead by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Rafah's Shabura refugee camp when soldiers dispersed a riot which broke out near the home of Faris Abu-Zakar, who died of wounds sustained in a clash with soldiers. Abu-Zakar was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

One Palestinian Dead, 4 Wounded in Gaza Clashes

NC1502132094 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 15
Feb 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Feb 15 (AFP)—Israeli troops shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian on Tuesday [15 February] and wounded four more in a series of clashes on the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

Ihab Tawfiq Barakat was hit by a bullet in the head during a demonstration in Rafah which followed Monday's death in the border town of a wanted member of the Red Eagles, the armed wing of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Another Palestinian was wounded in the shooting as troops riposted to stone-throwing and injured two Palestinians in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp and another in Gaza City.

The latest death brought to 1,177 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli bullets since the intifada or uprising began in December 1987, according to an AFP toll.

Meanwhile, a young Palestinian from Gaza wounded a Russian-Israeli immigrant with an axe at Ashdod on Tuesday morning, police said.

On the West Bank, the army closed a mosque near Ramallah saying it had been a propaganda centre for 'Izz-al-din al-Qassam, the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

'Izz-al-din announced Tuesday that it was carrying out a "Ramadan plan" for the Moslem fasting month to avenge the killing of Palestinian militants by Israeli soldiers.

"Vengeance will be taken anywhere. The blood of our militants will not flow unpunished and the Ramadan plan has begun," the armed wing said in a statement sent to AFP.

Hamas claimed responsibility for murdering an Israeli secret service agent and wounding two more near Ramallah on Sunday. A Palestinian double agent, who had collaborated with the authorities, led the Israelis into a trap, military officials said.

Ramallah Mosque Ordered Closed for Year

TA1502112994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Security forces ordered the closure for one year of a Ramallah mosque in which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] uniforms, head coverings, and instigative material were found. The order was approved after it was learned that the mosque served as a Hamas base.

Students from two Bethlehem schools stoned IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, but there were no casualties. The students hurled the stones because they failed in their matriculation examinations.

Police Commissioner Rafi Peled said that the police plan to increase supervision of residents from the territories crossing the Green Line to work in Israel, and if needed approval of entry into Israel will be made tougher.

Libyan Ambassador Denies Link to Diplomat's Murder

JN1502182894 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic
15-16 Feb 94 p23

[Text] Amman, AKHIR KHABAR—The Libyan ambassador in Amman has denied Libya had any connection with the killing of the diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah.

The ambassador told AKHIR KHABAR that Libyan-Jordanian relations are extremely good. He said there is a plot that is intended to harm Libyan-Jordanian ties, saying that the plot that is being hatched is bigger than the Arab people. He said colonialist nations seek to create problems and sow discord in order to preoccupy the Arab people with bilateral and trilateral problems, in order to peddle their solutions and policies in the region.

Answering a question about any official contacts between the Libyans and the Jordanian Government, the ambassador said: The Jordanian Government knows the truth. There is no need for any contacts. It is difficult to discuss denial and confirmation between brothers.

Regarding the party that leaked the information to AFP, the ambassador said: We do not know who is behind this. But imagine that the United States has recently said that Libya is conspiring against its security. Who would believe that? Imagine a Third World nation conspiring against the security of a superpower?

The ambassador concluded: Reason must prevail in this region. The United States and the colonialist countries should know that we are not little children anymore. We should analyze things. Dialogue is not a bad approach.

Tension in Ties With Libya Reported

PM1502163094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
15 Feb 94 p 1

[Excerpts] London, Amman, Beirut, Tripoli, Political Studies Center, news agencies—Lebanese security authorities announced yesterday the names of the Palestinians held in custody on charges of assassinating the Jordanian diplomat Na'ib Imran al-Ma'ayitah in Beirut. Meanwhile Jordan announced the arrest of the members of six "Afghan Arabs" cells in the context of its investigations to uncover those who carried out the bombing operations in Amman and to determine the extent of their link with al-Ma'ayitah's assassination.

Sources have said that members of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council who are said to be responsible for al-Ma'ayitah's assassination, are living normally in Jordan. Libya has denied any link with al-Ma'ayitah's assassination as reported in Amman. However, reports that Libya was behind the assassination have started a crisis in Jordanian-Libyan relations. [passage omitted]

Reports in Amman linked Libya's support of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council to the extent of its involvement in al-Ma'ayitah's assassination, especially as the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, pointed to the role of an

Arab capital in the incident. But Libya hastened to deny any link with the incident, stressing its good relations with Jordan. A Libyan source said that these reports are designed to harm these relations.

Some observers believe that Syria is currently trying to resolve matters between Jordan and Libya. The Syrians believe that any Jordanian pressure on Tripoli in this connection would weaken the latter's position in the worsening Lockerbie crisis. At any rate, it seems that Jordan is trying to identify the clues to this issue outside Jordanian territory, as the information available has not indicated that Jordanian security services have taken any actions against members of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council or made any arrests in this connection. It seems that it is seeking to get hold of all clues in the light of the investigations with those suspected of carrying out the assassination operation in question in Lebanon, and to determine whether they have any link with members of this organization in Jordan.

Qaddumi Arrives in Amman for Cooperation Talks

Qaddumi Notes Talks' Agenda

JN1502063294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic
0500 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Meetings of the higher Jordanian-Palestinian political committee will begin in Amman today to discuss bilateral cooperation. The committee, which is chaired on the Jordanian side by Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, and on the Palestinian side by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, will also discuss all living aspects in the wake of the security agreement the PLO signed with Israel on Wednesday [9 February] on the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy agreement.

In a statement to reporters on arrival in Amman yesterday evening, Qaddumi said: The Middle East is witnessing momentous events and there is no doubt that the joint higher committee meetings are for cooperation and not coordination in order to chart a future concept for the sons of the one homeland who are living on the two banks of the Jordan River. It is imperative that we explore this future, he added.

Asked about the most important topics on the agenda of the higher committee, he said: It will discuss all living aspects of our people on the two banks and in Gaza. It will also discuss all proposed issues out of our desire to build a just peace while maintaining our full rights in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. He stressed the need for Arab coordination.

He said: We as a joint delegation must assess our coordination on clear bases for the sake of serving the pan-Arab causes and our joint issues. Qaddumi said all topics of discussion will be identified and passed on to subcommittees. He added that a suitable program will

also be drawn up so that these subcommittees will continue their work without interruption.

He indicated that the Palestinians went to Madrid on the basis of the land-for-peace formula. If Israel does not withdraw immediately, he said, then that means it has violated the agreement and there will be no peace. He said Israel does not want peace. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has not abided by the agreement. This, he added, shows that Rabin has violated the agreement when he said dates are not sacred although they are an article in the agreement signed by Israel and the PLO. Therefore, every article in the agreement is, in his opinion, not sacred.

Addressing the states sponsoring the negotiations, Qaddumi said: Rabin does not want peace in the region. He emphasized the need for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination firstly and Jordanian-Palestinian-Arab coordination secondly in order to try to overcome the obstacles placed by Israel.

Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman; and several officials received Qaddumi and his delegation on their arrival.

The Palestinian delegation comprises PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department; Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, head of the Economic Department; and Ahmad Quray, director general of the Economic Department; and Akram Haniyah, special adviser to the Palestinian president.

It is noteworthy that the joint higher committee supervises seven committees formed a year ago to coordinate the Jordanian-Palestinian positions in all fields.

Higher Committee Opens Meetings

JN1502124994 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] The higher Jordanian-Palestinian political committee has just opened cooperation meetings here in Amman. The committee will discuss various areas of future cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinians following the security agreement on self-rule that the PLO signed with Israel last Wednesday [9 February].

The committee, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Sa'id al-Tall and the head of the PLO's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi, is discussing cooperation in the areas of economy, security, and issues tackled by the multilateral Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Qaddumi told reporters on arrival in Amman last night that the committee would debate a wide range of issues which would later be referred to specialized subcommittees which would meet regularly. He accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of reneging on the peace accord by repeatedly stating that dates were not

sacred. Mr. Qaddumi called for closer strategy coordination between Jordan and the PLO.

Officials Review 'Fruitful' Talks

JN1502185194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Meetings of the higher Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee began at the Foreign Ministry today. The committee is led by Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. The meetings were attended by committee members of the Jordanian and Palestinians sides.

The meetings will discuss various issues regarding economics, security, and development, as well as the issues tackled by the multilateral talks.

Following the first session of higher Jordanian-Palestinian joint political committee meetings, Dr. Jawad al-Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Information Department, held a joint news conference.

Dr. al-Anani said:

[Begin al-Anani recording] Today's meeting was very fruitful and beneficial. Agreement was reached on several issues. First of all, we discussed the mechanism of coordination, and our evaluation of the coordination that has been conducted so far. We decided to adopt policies that provide a clear mechanism for this coordination, based on clear timetables, specific committees, and fixed dates of meetings so we can coordinate our positions from now on, especially because the negotiations process and the peace process have begun to move from the negotiations halls to practical implementation on the ground. This affects the interest of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples on the two banks.

Likewise, we discussed the basic issues that are of an urgent and current nature. We know that Palestinian-Israeli economic talks will begin in Paris. Therefore, we appreciate the understanding of the brothers on the Palestinian side for the need for coordination with us, particularly in the field of trade cooperation and trade exchange. At present, this point has special importance.

We discussed the stage of what are called security arrangements and borders. We agreed to activate the committee assigned with this subject and to exchange expertise and information in this field. We also agreed to coordinate the traffic of passengers on both sides, and to make sure that the opening of the bridges after the implementation of self-rule will be in the interests of the people, in term of their movement and their return to their land—not to empty the land but to entrench the people there.

As for the two other issues, which are the refugees and Jerusalem, we agreed to form two committees, a specialized committee for each subject, in order to agree on the frameworks within which we should deal with these two basic and sensitive topics. You know, for the Palestinian side, these two subjects are delayed until the negotiations on the final stage, but we can coordinate our positions now on negotiations concerning these subjects in a manner that secures for the Palestinian people, and the Arab people in general, their rights in their land in Palestine and Jerusalem, and the same applies to the basic rights of the refugees. [end recording]

For his part, 'Abd-Rabbuh Said:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] The meeting discussed almost all issues on the agenda in the areas that Dr. Jawad al-'Anani mentioned. I believe this meeting was practical, and allows us to go ahead with substantial steps, whether in bilateral Jordanian-Palestinian coordination or in supporting the position of the two parties within the framework of the negotiations process.

There are issues that are still under discussion, such as the evacuees. Also under discussion is the idea of forming a quadruple committee, preceded by a Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian meeting to coordinate stands between these parties. This subject is of primary concern and is among the issues that are supposed to be settled during the transitional stage. [end recording]

Committee Concludes Meetings

JN1602114194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee has concluded the meetings it held in Amman yesterday and today. The Jordanian side to the talks was headed by Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, while the Palestinian side was led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

During its meetings, the committee reviewed issues of bilateral and Arab concern to promote the overall bilateral cooperation and coordination to the required level in all areas. The committee also reviewed recent developments in the peace process, including the agreement the PLO and Israel signed in Cairo on 9 February, which constitutes a major step toward the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord, which is the first part of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the climate of understanding that permeated the talks, something which promotes bilateral coordination. This climate also demonstrates the need to promote and enhance this coordination in all areas, given that it is a realistic response to the special, historical, and faithful relationship between the two peoples, as well as a response to the common challenges facing them.

Information Minister Receives Japanese Official JN1602182294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Minister of Information Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has received Director of the Middle East Affairs Department at the Japanese Foreign Ministry (Shiguro Ando). Discussions tackled bilateral relations.

Dr. al-'Anani reaffirmed Jordan's constant stance towards the Middle East conflict and the necessity to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement as well as resolving all issues on all negotiating tracks between the Arab states and Israel.

The Japanese official, whose country presides over the environment working group at the multilateral talks, praised Jordan's role in the Middle East peace negotiations and its interest in the environment. He underlined the importance of bolstering the existing bilateral ties, particularly in the economic and trade fields.

Japanese Official Departs

JN1602081094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Feb 94 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—A senior Japanese official left Amman Tuesday [15 February] after talks on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

(Shiguro Ando), director of the First Middle East Department of the Japanese Ministry, also reviewed preparations for the next meeting of a multilateral working group on the environment, Japanese ambassador Yuji Ikeda said.

Mr. Ikeda noted that Mr. Ando, who headed for Syria, had assumed his new post recently and was seeking to familiarize himself with the views of the various parties in the Middle East in the context of the 27-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process and the Japanese role in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Ikeda described as constructive Mr. Ando's talks here with Minister of Planning Ziyad Faris and Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani, one of Jordan's key strategists in the peace process.

The talks covered Jordan's economic situation and its efforts to reschedule its foreign debts and Japanese support for the various development projects under way in the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Daily Criticizes Juppe's Remarks in Israel*JN1602145394 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 16 Feb 94 p 13*

[Editorial: "Remarks on the Minister's Statements Across the River"]

[Text] The momentum and new course of French-Israeli relations as announced by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in occupied Jerusalem included the revival and activation of the military and security cooperation that eroded during late French President de Gaulle's era, in the aftermath of the 1967 aggression.

Although we realize that the illegitimate son that is the product of Western states' relations with Jewish leaders, the birth of Israel, will continue to be the object of Western care and attention, new talk about the peace required in our region dictates striking a balance—which does not yet exist—between the special relations the West is establishing with Israel and the new relations the West hopes to establish with the Arabs, who call for justice, restoration of usurped rights, and compensation at a stage when durable peace can be concluded.

The French minister's talk about reactivating military and security cooperation between Paris and Tel Aviv, after crossing the river from a recent visit to Amman, is surprising. We question the timing and aims of this reactivation, especially since France was neutral rather than supportive of Israeli aggression and the acts of persecution and oppression practiced under occupation.

During the current peace talks Tel Aviv has presented nothing, on any track, that proves it is ready to abandon the logic of occupation and aggression. It continues daily violations of the simplest human rights in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. Still, the French minister talks about more cooperation with Israel in various fields amid reports that the French defense minister will shortly arrive in Tel Aviv to bolster military cooperation that was severed in 1967.

We hope the French interest in reactivating relations with Tel Aviv will not place more hurdles on the path of the peace process—a process further complicated and slowed down by the unlimited U.S. support for this entity. Israel will be reassured that this economic, political, and military aid will continue, even if it perpetuates the state of war and instability in this sensitive region by its obstruction of the peace talks. Development and construction energies in this region have been exhausted over the past decades as a result of the losses caused by the establishment of Israel.

U.S. Urged To 'Do More' Against Settlement Plans*JN1302130494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Feb 94 p 4*

[Editorial: "Settlements vs. Dollars"]

[Text] The recent decision of the Clinton administration to penalise Israel by deducting \$437 million from this year's U.S. loan guarantees because of its illegal settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories appears to be less serious than it really is. What this penalty means in the final analysis is that instead of the full \$2 billion in U.S. guarantees Israel would receive in 1994, it can now expect a maximum of \$1.563 billion.

On the surface of things, Washington's "punitive" move is predicated on its appraisal of Israeli spending on settlements in 1993 in excess of what was originally expected and agreed upon between the American and Israeli governments in 1992. The catch is that any penalty against continued Israeli building of settlements does not affect the \$3 billion a year aid package to Israel. Had the White House been really serious about punishing Israel for its illegal settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it would have opted to cut drastically its direct financial, economical and military support programmes to the Rabin government instead of relying solely on reducing its loan guarantees.

Still, the U.S.' reaction, ineffective as it may be, confirms Arab suspicions that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is still bent on populating Palestinian territories with Israeli settlers at a time when he pretends to be suing for peace with the Arab side, especially the Palestinians. This is the newest evidence yet that the Israeli pious pleas for a just and durable peace in the region are cynical and hypocritical at best. At the rate the Israeli colonisation programme is developing, there would not be much Palestinian territory left to talk about at the end of the 5-year transitional period.

This is where the U.S. can be expected to do more by way of frustrating the Israeli settlement plans by cutting deeply into its concrete aid to the Jewish state. It could be the only language that Rabin understands, given the failure of all other methods of persuasion.

What adds insult to injury, though, is the reaction of pro-Israel activists in Washington who have expressed their dismay at the announcement of the so-called penalty. Now Israel and its supporters are pinning hopes on the U.S. Congress to reverse the administration's decision. If congressmen end up accommodating Israeli lobbyists on this score, then there is no escape from the conclusion that what the executive branch in Washington offers in support of the peace process on the one hand, Capitol Hill readily takes away on the other.

Writer Refutes U.S. Human Rights Report*JN1402101594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 94 p 5*

[Article by Walid Sa'di: "Human Rights File"]

[Text] The annual U.S. State Department reports on human rights worldwide is an effort to show Washington's concern over governments' human rights records by chronicling positive and negative developments on

yearly basis. Presumably, the information supplied by the U.S. diplomatic missions abroad serves as the basis of these reports.

Seldom is there reliance on independent submissions in preparing the State Department's views on this subject. In a sense, therefore, Washington's judgment is subjective to a great extent that may or may not reflect the fact of the matter.

Against this backdrop, the message of the State Department's 1993 report on Jordan appeared to be garbled, lacking a central theme. I have some years of experience in human rights endeavours, ever since I joined the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in 1975, so I can say that I found the reports of the international system of human rights remarkably different from those prepared by the State Department in content and style. Whereas United Nations efforts consist of documented information, the Washington ones appear to be a list of conclusions and judgments based on interpretations of laws and practices.

This is not to suggest that the U.S. report on Jordan has no redeeming value. On the contrary, the report contains some observations and comments that are serious and true to the best of my knowledge. My concern, however, is about the overall assessment and tone of the report which may give rise to speculations about Jordan's commitment to democracy and human rights.

By way of example, I hasten to cite a few samples of remarks contained in the 1993 report which could be misleading instead of being informative, as I am sure they were originally intended to be. When the first paragraph states categorically that "in practice the King sets the broad parameters of foreign and domestic policy while the prime minister exercises management of daily affairs," one gets the distinct impression that the Monarch governs in absolute terms without any constraints or guidelines and that the executive branch of government under the prime minister is nothing but a municipal council dealing with such state matters as the collection of garbage or the supply of electricity and water. The picture is further distorted when the report goes on to say that Parliament is "subordinate to the executive branch."

A more realistic and faithful appraisal of the political structure in the Kingdom would reveal that for all intents and purposes His Majesty King Husayn does not exercise more prerogatives than for example the president of the U.S. or any other chief executive in many developed countries, not to mention developing nations. If the authority of the Monarch to dissolve Parliament under special conditions is what bothers the U.S., then it is fair to say that the exercises of this power has been carried out with maximum discretion and in a manner that is echoed in many democratic states.

Besides, a Jordanian prime minister is anything but a "mayor" of sorts. All of us who are privy to the political scene in the Kingdom know only too well that the King

hands over nearly 90 per cent of the rein if not more to the prime minister and his team of ministers. Some of us are dismayed by such an excessive transfer of power and wish that the King involved himself a bit more in the management of the country.

This line of analysis leads the State Department to the equally invalid allegation that Parliament is subordinate to the executive branch. I presume that the prime minister and his cabinet are viewed as part and parcel of the executive branch. If this is the case, as it should be, then the impression left by the remark that the legislature plays second fiddle to the cabinet needs to be corrected, especially if the current phase of Jordanian democracy is taken into consideration. Surely it is acknowledged and appreciated that the contemporary and ancient history of the country is full of precedents where governments were voted out of office by the Lower House of Parliament.

In the second paragraph of the report, there is also a submission that "whereas the government has revoked martial law directives, important elements of martial law remain operative."

By way of example, the report refers to the "broad scope of police powers," as evidence of the continuation of the spirit of a martial law regime in the country. To begin with, martial law as such is a different subject from police powers per se. The former suspends constitutional rights while the latter reflects as policy issue on crime and punishment that is not necessarily related to martial law regimes.

Without suggesting for a moment that policy can have a license to arrest and detain people without any legal guidelines or constraints, many of us in Jordan do not wish to curtail the power of the police to the extent that many western nations have done at the expense of internal law and order. No nation would want to have criminals loose in the streets and witness the commission of crimes that can be preventable. U.S. President Bill Clinton has made this very issue the theme of his annual address to the Congress earlier this year and called for a more effective policy and judicial measures to combat rampant crime in his country. The most recent U.S. statistics on crime revealed that the prison population in the U.S. has risen threefold since 1974. No one can deny that the increase of crime in the U.S. is related, inter alia, to the disproportionate increase in legal safeguards offered to suspects. For many of us in Jordan, the choice in favour of a crime-free society is also a priority and we are not prepared to allow marginal legal technicalities stand in the way of keeping criminals off the streets.

In this vein, Jordanians do not wish to condone torture or the ill treatment of detainees or prisoners. As a matter of fact, Jordan has ratified the Convention against Torture in 1992 as evidence of its policy against mistreatment of suspects and prisoners. It is also a fitting reminder that Jordan had ratified the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as far back as 1977. (As a footnote, the U.S. acceded to the ICCPR only two years ago!). So when the report states that "physical abuse of prisoners during interrogation and detention continues to occur," one can only say that this is probably true on limited occasions and needs therefore to be combated. Yet suggesting that such police excesses, when they occur reflect a state policy, makes the report in need of correction. Many nations, including some of the most advanced ones, suffer from police brutality. Most probably, the extent of the problem in Jordan is greater than that in the West. Yet it is also fair to say that this phenomenon in Jordan has more to do with police training and discipline than with any current state policy.

What puzzled me most about the report in question, however, is the statement in the fourth paragraph to the effect that "citizens do not have the right to change their government." How absurd can one be! Where in the world do citizens have the inalienable and absolute right to change their governments by any means? Do the Americans, for example, have the right to change the republican form of their government? Nations have constitutions which draw the parameters of their respective systems of political structure. Jordan is no different and enjoys a written constitution that deserves also to be respected and upheld.

On the issue of freedom of speech and press, there was also a mention of the view that the "government in Jordan continues to exercise limited censorship of local media." Without suggesting that we in Jordan have reached perfection in the exercise of free press, the Malhas affair and its wide and unimpeded coverage is a vivid example of how much press is free in Jordan. When the shocking disclosure about the state of food and medicine was freely aired by the media, then there is no cause for alarm about freedom of thought in Jordan. We certainly have more to go before we attain the level of free press that some western nations enjoy, but we are certainly well on our way in that direction. The only constraint that Jordan insists on in this context is to exercise this right in a responsible way, something that most nations would insist on, undoubtedly. In this vein, the call for making Jordan television more independent is increasingly gaining more currency and could very well be in the pipeline.

To sum it up, Jordan is not perfect in its human rights record, but which country is? Moreover, Jordan stands out among the other states of the region as indeed exemplary in its efforts to spring new roots for its democratic process. This much was not reflected in the State Department's report on Jordan for 1993.

Al-Hariri: No Plans for Withdrawal of Syrian Forces

NC1302073294 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has affirmed that real preparedness to confront developments in the region lies in two basic fields. The first is to strengthen and fortify our internal front using all the elements needed to destroy divisions among Lebanese. The second is to build the establishments of the state in the vital and industrial fields and try to develop and confront the requirements of the coming stage.

Prime Minister al-Hariri's speech came during a seminar held in Juniyah yesterday evening. Answering questions from people attending the seminar, the prime minister said he supports the implementation of al-Ta'if, but the Syrian forces will be staying for the time being because they are helping the Lebanese security forces preserve internal security. He stressed that Lebanon came to the negotiations with Syria and will leave them when Syria does. [passage omitted]

On relations among the three leaders, the prime minister said: We do not differ over the essence, but over the form. Differences are natural in a democratic system. On the absence of balance in national decision-making due to the absence of Christian representation, al-Hariri said the Chamber of Deputies was elected within an election law. The current government is not responsible for the elections that have already taken place. He affirmed that when the time comes to hold new parliamentary elections, which will not be soon, then we can rectify the representation proportions.

Al-Hirawi Discusses Ties With Syria, Talks With Israel

PM1002162894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Feb 94 p 3

[Report on interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Muhammad Shuqayr "on the way back to Beirut from Abidjan"; date not given]

[Excerpts] Lebanese concerns—and they are numerous—did not prevent President Ilyas al-Hirawi from paying attention to Lebanese expatriates in Cote d'Ivoire. He went there at an invitation from the community's leaders, who had decided—at his wish—to stop the ongoing competition among themselves. They all went to receive and welcome him. [passage omitted]

President al-Hirawi said that during all his meetings he stressed Lebanon's future role and its people's ability to occupy the forefront in the competition with Israel, which is planning to invade the region. "I do not believe that we are going to face any problem with Syria, contrary to what some Lebanese allege. The statements I heard during one of my meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad were frank. He said once: 'at Lebanon is in the

forefront of the states capable of competing with Israel. You have the qualities and conditions that enable you to make it the Hong Kong of the Middle East."

Al-Hirawi adds: "We in Lebanon are not afraid of Syria, which sincerely sees us as the lung through which it breathes. It is helping us to maintain security. Our success in uncovering the series of explosions that occurred in the north and in east Sidon is attributable to Syrian security assistance. Had it not been for it, we would not have been able to arrest one of the network. Syria—according to President al-Asad—wants nothing from Lebanon. Let everyone be assured about that, especially those constantly talking about fears and concerns. All it wants is to protect its security rear and not to exploit Lebanon or turn it into an arena harmful to its national security. This is what we firmly believe. It has confidence in Lebanon's future role in the region when peace is established. And it sincerely believes that it cannot replace Lebanon, for reasons attributable primarily to the system we have."

President al-Hirawi stresses that President al-Asad "talks about Lebanon's future and praises its capabilities and the services it can offer, not only to the Lebanese, but to all the Arab states. He calls for safeguarding and protecting them."

The Lebanese president reiterates his position "not to allow Lebanon to be turned into an arena for settling accounts." He says that this position "is derived from the government's and people's position. Southern Lebanon and west al-Biq'a' can only be recovered and liberated from the Israeli occupation on the basis of the land-for-a-halt-to-resistance principle, since resistance remains a legitimate right for the Lebanese as long as the occupier is still on our territory. We did not go to the peace talks except to achieve this Lebanese unanimity of recovering every occupied inch."

On the fate of the negotiations, al-Hirawi says: "We attach importance to the U.S.-Syrian summit between Presidents Bill Clinton and Hafiz al-Asad. We went to Washington only after the assurances vis-a-vis ending the occupation and implementing international resolutions. We had hoped that the EC would exert pressure on Israel, but it seems that France is currently busy organizing its internal situations. This is what I sensed during the talks I held with senior French officials who attended the Ivorian president's funeral."

With regard to Pope John Paul II's upcoming to Lebanon, President al-Hirawi stresses that "it is welcomed, and we expect good from it." He revealed that Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac visited the Vatican recently and urged that it take place.

Concluding, he stressed the "need to vigorously safeguard security and confront anyone who tries to return the situation to what it was." He emphasized that his call to the central security council to convene under him in

B'abda recently "was designed to intercept anyone planning to tamper with security, especially after the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, and to stress the need to pursue and punish the perpetrators." [passage omitted]

U.S. Team Reportedly Preparing Officials for Accord

NC1502162694 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 10

[Text] An informed political source has revealed that a large U.S. delegation of military and political officials arrived recently at the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar.

The U.S. delegation's visit at this time has particular political connotations because it coincides with the resumption of the talks between Lebanon and "Israel." And there have been reports of repeated U.S. attempts to breach the Lebanese and Syrian positions and encourage Lebanon to join the multilateral talks.

Other reports have stated that a U.S. delegation visited the "occupied zone" a few days ago. This is a signal that the current bilateral talks in Washington have begun to discuss the details after drawing up the outlines of the agreement between Lebanon and "Israel."

The same source said U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley, who formed a new political and media team when he assumed his duties in Beirut, personally asked for the large U.S. delegation to come to Beirut and stay at the U.S. Embassy for a few days far from the limelight to help prepare the U.S. Embassy's plan of action and give "advice" to Lebanese officials on how to deal with anticipated developments.

The political source has monitored [rasada] U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley recently intensifying his contacts and meetings with the Lebanese officials within the framework of following up the bilateral talks in Washington.

According to the same political source, this month or next at most will witness the "ceremony" of the signing of the declaration of principles between Lebanon and "Israel." The large U.S. delegation has carried this information from the U.S. Administration in Washington.

The political source noted that a U.S. military helicopter has recently been making frequent trips between the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar and Cyprus carrying U.S. military and political officials each time.

U.S. Reportedly Ready To Supply Arms to Government

NC1502161394 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Why"]

[Text] According to informed sources, during his meetings with Lebanese officials, U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley has expressed U.S. readiness to supply the Lebanese Army and the official security apparatus with new military equipment.

The sources fear that there are wicked intentions behind the U.S. readiness.

Hizballah Paper Claims U.S. Envoy Leaking False Reports

NC1502160594 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 9

[Report entitled "Beware of the U.S. Ambassador"]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley has been holding weekly meetings with Lebanese journalists at the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar. At these meetings, Hambley leaks false reports to the journalists on U.S. policy in Lebanon and the region so that these reports will be published in the Lebanese press and lead to confusion in the Lebanese political club [al-nadi al-siyasi al-lubnani], which is at a "crossroads" with the new ambassador.

Fadlallah: Mujahidin To Ignore U.S., Arab Advice

NC1102144094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today said that Israel is not free to do what it wants because the current stage does not permit it to invade other countries. In his Friday sermon today, he said that everyone should know that the mujahidin will not listen to the U.S., Arab, or traditional Lebanese advice. He noted that, at the same time, the mujahidin are politically enlightened and have deep feelings and wise plans.

Cabinet Approves Sale of 10 Mirage Fighters

NC1402205094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] In its meeting today, the Council of Ministers approved the sale of 10 Mirage fighters. While the cabinet statement gave no other details, REUTER said Pakistan is interested in buying the planes. The agency said the Lebanese officials are waiting a report from the Armed Forces estimating the value of the planes, which Lebanon bought from France in the 60's.

Pakistan Interested in Buying Planes

NC1502120894 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Beirut, Feb 15 (AFP)—Pakistan wants to buy 10 Mirage III-C fighter-bombers which have been grounded in Lebanon for nearly two decades, the first secretary at the Pakistani embassy here said Tuesday [15 February].

Abbas Raza Kazmi told AFP that the embassy's military attache had visited the planes at the northern base of

al-Qulay'at and informed the authorities that Pakistan was interested in buying them.

"We are now waiting for a response from the Lebanese authorities. We need a price range and details because as you know these are old planes which need maintenance," he said.

On Monday, the government decided to sell the 10 French-made planes, which have been grounded since the early days of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war and for which there are no spare parts.

Former prime minister 'Umar Karami, during a visit to France in 1992, tried in vain to trade them in for spare parts to equip the army or for military helicopters, officials here said.

Three Hawker Hunters make up Lebanon's current air force, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Birri Visits South; Army Positions 'Reinforced'

NC1002175194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Nabih Birri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, went to the south this morning to follow up developments there in light of the continuing Israeli military escalation. He listened to security briefings about the attacks and telephoned Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul.

Israeli occupation forces continue to make the security situation in the south and western al-Biq'a worse, amid mounting fears of renewed Israeli attacks on the liberated areas. Since morning, the Israelis have shelled Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Bra'shit, and Haddathah. Israeli reinforcements continue to pour into the occupied border strip.

In the past few hours, the Lebanese Army reinforced its positions in Marj al-Zahur, Mimis, and western al-Biq'a with men and weapons in anticipation of any eventuality.

Elsewhere today, Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, said five Nepalese soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously, when their military vehicle overturned yesterday near al-Ghanduriyah in Tyre.

Israeli Artillery, Helicopters, Gunboats Shell South

NC1402125794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] The outskirts of Buyut al-Sayyid, al-Mansuri, and Majdal Zun came under artillery barrage from Israeli enemy positions in al-Bayyadah at dawn today. Israeli helicopters flew over these areas and raked nearby valleys and woods.

At dawn today, Israeli helicopters flew over Zibqin, Kafra, Yatar, and Haris and fired flares.

Israeli gunboats opened machine-gun fire at the area extending from al-Hamra' to al-Qulaylah plain and al-Mansuri today.

Resistance Detonates Charges Under Patrols

NC1402140494 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance announced that an explosive charge was detonated as an occupation patrol passed along the Shama' road in the security strip a few minutes after 0900 today. The occupation forces shelled Wadi al-Nafkhah and (Wadi Hinn) from their position in Tayr Harfa. The shelling continued intermittently until 1030.

The Resistance also claimed the detonation of another charge at 1230 today as a patrol of the militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] passed along the Shama'-Tayr Harfa road. The blast destroyed a red Mercedes 280 in which the militia's official in Tayr Harfa was riding.

Last night, Resistance fighters attacked the Lahd [SLA] position in the central sector. A position of the Fijian contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in al-Mansuri was shelled from the militia [SLA] position in Jisr al-Hamra' at dawn today.

The outskirts of Buyut al-Sayyid, al-Mansuri, and Majdal Zun came under shelling from the occupation forces' position in al-Bayyadah at dawn today. Israeli military planes overflew these areas and raked the nearby forests with machine-gun fire. Enemy planes overflew Zibqin, Kafra, Yatar, and Haris in dawn missions in which they fired flares.

Israeli gunboats raked the area extending from al-Hamra' to al-Mansuri with machine-gun fire.

Israeli Air Strikes Against Hizballah Reported

NC1502210594 Paris AFP in English 2005 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb 15 (AFP)—Israeli warplanes blasted positions of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement in two waves of air strikes Tuesday [15 February] in south Lebanon, killing one guerrilla and wounding two others, security sources said.

Plumes of smoke billowed into the air after warplanes swooped over the Iqlim al-Tuffah ridge east of the port of Sidon, firing missiles and dropping several delayed action and cluster bombs, the sources said.

One Hizballah guerrilla was killed and two others were wounded in the raids, they said.

A spokesman for Hizballah in Beirut said earlier there were no casualties in the attacks, which coincided with the resumption in Washington of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli army spokesman confirmed the raid saying all aircraft returned safely to base.

"All the targets, which were in a zone entirely controlled by the Hizballah, were destroyed," he said. The Hizballah positions were used for training and launching attacks on Israeli targets, he added.

The raids came three days after Hizballah's secretary general Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah warned his group would step up attacks against Israel in south Lebanon.

The Iranian-backed movement killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded five others on February 7 in the bloodiest attack since August, triggering Israeli air strikes and artillery attacks and threats of further reprisals.

Israel has lost 30 soldiers in Lebanon since January 1993.

In Tuesday's raids two warplanes fired missiles on al-Luwayzah, a Hizballah stronghold in the Iqlim al-Tuffah, and minutes later, warplanes struck again at Hizballah hideouts in nearby Jarju'.

A Hizballah source in the port of Tyre said guerrillas fired four shoulder-launched SAM-7 missiles at the planes. A security source said up to seven missiles were fired at the aircraft. [passage omitted]

Rocket Attacks on SLA, Israeli Positions Reported

NC1602085794 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] According to our military correspondent, villages in the Bint Jubayl area came under a rocket attack from the saboteurs' positions in Yatar and the outskirts of Haddathah this morning.

The al-Hamra' position came under attack from machine-gun and rocket fire at dawn today. There were no casualties among the personnel manning the position, who returned fire.

All this happened in the western sector of the security strip. In the eastern sector, a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol in Zummarayya was the target of gunfire and rocket fire from the Hirbaya Hill north of the Zummarayya crossing. The Zummarayya-Hasbayya-'Ayn Qinya axis was bombarded with 120-mm guns from the saboteurs' position in Libbaya. There were no casualties. SLA and Israeli artillery returned the fire.

In the Jazzin area, the Taw'amat Niha position came under artillery fire from hostile positions in Mashgharah. Again there were no casualties.

Yesterday our correspondent was informed by official military sources that the Israeli army and the SLA forces in the border area have been placed on a higher level of alert during the past few days. This follows expectations

that the Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] will escalate its activities and attempt acts of sabotage in the border area on 28 February, the anniversary of its founding. The sources added that the DFLP has in the past few years tried to intensify its activities on this occasion.

Israeli Column Advances

NC1602100394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Fierce fighting has been raging between resistance men, on one hand, and Israeli troops and the agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army] on the other, along the Zummarayya combat line since 0800 today. Artillery and rockets are being used in the clashes.

A group of resistance men attacked a Lahdist patrol on the Hasbani-Zummarayya road this morning. Resistance men also pounded Lahdist posts in 'Ayn Qinya.

Israeli forces bombarded several southern areas at 0700 today, including the Mimas axis, Marj al-Zuhur, Mazra'at 'Ayn Jabbur, Jabal al-Zahr, and Dallafah. A column of 12 Israeli armored vehicles escorted by some 50 troops advanced toward the Zummarayya crossing point.

Meanwhile, the area between al-Hamra' and Haddathah came under fierce attacks amid Israeli overflights today.

Israeli Navy Captures 5 Fishermen South of Tyre

NC1502143694 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Feb 15 (AFP)—The Israeli navy abducted at dawn Tuesday five fishermen in Lebanese territorial waters and towed their boats towards Israel, fishermen here said.

The five were on board two boats just south of the port of Tyre when an Israeli gunboat intercepted them, a fisherman who was in the vicinity said.

He charged that members of Israel's proxy militia manning a position overlooking Tyre opened fire at the fishermen at the same time but there were no casualties.

The Israeli navy patrols the waters of south Lebanon, intercepting boats and seizing travelers or fishermen for questioning as part of operations to check for anti-Israeli guerrillas.

Two Detainees Released

NC1502184794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] REUTER cited a security source as saying that Israeli gunboats released two fishermen off the coast of Tyre after detaining them this morning. Three other fishermen were taken to an unknown destination.

Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Arab Developments

JN1502153194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. It reviewed the work of the Economic Committee. The council also discussed ongoing Arab and international developments. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reviewed developments in the peace process and the results of recent meetings of the Syrian, Iranian, and Turkish foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

Radio Commentary Rejects Secret Talks With Israel

JN1502161894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Peace talks will resume in Washington today amid growing Israeli skepticism and feverish maneuvers designed to circumvent the basis of a just and comprehensive solution in the region. Shim'on Peres has openly announced his conviction that these talks are useless.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin has stressed the need to initiate collateral negotiations and to hold a referendum on the Golan. He has urged Syria to convince the Israelis of its desire for peace. An observer following Middle East events will find nothing surprising in Rabin's call. It is an Israeli habit to falsify facts and distort events.

Anyone who listens to Rabin will come away with the impression that Syria is the aggressor and that Israel is a patient and peaceful lamb subject to repeated attack. Naturally, Rabin ignores the fact of Israel's attacks on Arab countries after 1948, and the fact that the Golan is Syrian territory occupied by Israel in 1967 after the UN Security Council's cease-fire resolution. Rabin ignores the woes, disasters, and catastrophes that befell the Palestinian people at the hands of Israeli forces and as a result of expansionist settlement schemes. Rabin ignores the incessant Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Everything has been distorted. The sinful executioner has been converted into a victim, while the victim is presented with demands to prove its peaceful intentions.

Experience unquestionably demonstrates that secret negotiations are just an Israeli technique designed for blackmail. It has always been a futile policy. The Palestinian side, which held secret collateral negotiations with the Israelis in Oslo, has gathered only bitter fruit and disappointment. This side was dragged into positions that are outside international legitimacy and its resolutions; the outcome is an agreement that gives Israel a free hand in all basic Palestinian affairs, while it gives trifles to the the Palestinians.

Despite lengthy and complex negotiations in several international capitals and cities in order to interpret this agreement, the results are even worse than many people expected. Israeli officials did not hide their satisfaction with the substantive concessions they have obtained from the Palestinians. Some Israeli officials even expressed sadness over the state of affairs on the Palestinian side. Naturally, this would not have happened if the Palestinian side was committed to the constants of the meetings held in Damascus, Beirut, and Amman, and if it had not stopped the coordination with the Arab brethren.

Now that the Israeli rulers have gained a lot from the Palestinian side's violation of the Arab consensus, these rulers want to play the same game with other Arab parties. They are urging them to hold secret negotiations on the pretext that it will speed up the peace process.

The Washington talks are the most appropriate framework for promoting the peace process—if Israel really wants peace and looks forward to a just and comprehensive solution to the vehement conflict in the region. Israel, however, has no intention of withdrawing from occupied Arab territories or of ending the policy of continued settlement building. Israel has mired the Washington talks in futile arguments and problems, avoiding the substance of the peace process.

In more than two years, no Arab side has received any answer to the question of whether or not Israel intends to implement Security Council resolutions and withdraw from occupied Arab territories. Instead of translating the land-for-peace principle into a tangible reality, Israel has raised dozens of security problems in order to conceal its expansionist ambitions. Today, Israel demands that the talks be shunted off their track and away from their framework, as it has done with the Palestinian side, and that secret negotiations be held at higher levels. This is intended to ignore the Security Council resolutions that structure the peace process, dragging the Arab sides into positions where they will lose the cover of international legitimacy.

The following questions should be posed to the Israeli rulers: Why should secret talks bear fruit? Why can't the Washington talks reach a breakthrough, since we know these talks are held away from media clamor? Why does Israel refuse to announce at the Washington talks what it can announce in secret talks? Or, is it indeed a matter of fostering delusions among Arab parties—delusions which, in the secret talks, will turn into time bombs?

Peace cannot be established in vestibules and cellars. It can only be established by serious and objective negotiations under the banner of international legitimacy.

If Israel is really serious about achieving peace, the Washington talks are the most appropriate framework, especially because they are held under U.S. and Russian sponsorship, close to the United Nations. These talks

will definitely bear fruit and achieve remarkable progress if Israel commits itself to withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Instead of casting doubts and creating confusion, it would be better for the Israeli rulers to comply with the principles of the Madrid conference. By so doing, these rulers will see that peace is at hand.

Rabin Statements on Peace, Withdrawal Criticized

JN1602091694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN addresses the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington yesterday amidst unencouraging Israeli developments. This shows, the paper says, that Israel wants these talks to continue to revolve in a vicious circle and to remain monotonous and futile.

TISHRIN also notes the encouraging U.S. position. It says the United States has renewed its full commitment to just and comprehensive peace, and underscored Syria's leading role in the peace process.

TISHRIN adds: It is interesting that U.S. news reports have spoken of a new tour of the region in early March by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. This means that the United States will be awaiting the outcome of the second round of talks held at the chief delegates' level in Washington. Once this round is concluded, Secretary of State Christopher will make moves within the context of a regional tour.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Israel has not thus far shown any concern over possible regional developments if the second round of the Washington chief delegates' talks fail and the peace process reaches a dead end. Israel alone has continued to oppose compliance with international legitimacy resolutions. That is why it is making strenuous attempts to render the U.S. role void of any meaningful content. As a matter of fact, Israel is casting doubts on the usefulness of this role.

TISHRIN says: Israeli skepticism over the possible achievement of progress in the Washington bilateral talks is part of the Israeli procrastination and prevarication policy. It aims to frustrate all peace efforts. This has been corroborated by Israel's decision to ignore the outcome of the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton, and its disregard for all peace efforts.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The peace process could be redeemed if the United States plays a constructive and positive role as a full partner and an honest broker. This is necessary to make Israel meet the requirements of just and comprehensive peace.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the impossible conditions Rabin has raised anew, saying: The articulation of these conditions coincides with the resumption of the Washington bilateral talks. These conditions are designed to circumvent the true requirements of peace. Rabin resorts to these tunes whenever he experiences an increasing isolation with regard to peace efforts.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since the convocation of the Madrid conference, Israel has continued to speak about the kind of peace we are offering, not because it is unaware of that, but because it deliberately seeks to circumvent the peace process unleashed by the Madrid conference, and promoted by the Geneva summit, which produced remarkable results. Israel alone does not want to acknowledge many facts pertaining to peace efforts, primarily those related to the need to achieve just and comprehensive peace. One of these facts concerns the need for the Zionist occupation troops to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories, as provided for in the U.S. peace initiative and the relevant international resolutions.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Rabin's renewed refusal to address the question of withdrawal from the Golan or southern Lebanon before he knows the kind of peace advocated by Syria is a flagrant attempt at circumvention. There is no alternative to rehabilitating the Madrid conference formula and the Geneva summit outcome, which provided a definition of peace that is acceptable not only to Syria, but also to the entire world community, which is supposed to accord due respect to international legitimacy resolutions.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Rabin, who must have been familiar with the U.S. peace initiative and the outcome of the Geneva summit, is well aware that the achievement of just and comprehensive peace in the region is contingent upon compliance with the provisions enshrined in this initiative, and also with the consensus of the entire world community. Consequently, attempts to evade the requirements of peace will not last long.

In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the eve of the resumption of the Washington bilateral talks on the chief delegates' level, in which he reiterated Israel's refusal to withdraw to the pre-1967 borders, are not designed for domestic consumption. As a matter of fact, these statements enjoy the support of Zionist parties of all colors and hues. They reflect a desire to consecrate occupation and promote the Israeli scheme and strategy, which are grounded in aggression and expansion.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Rabin's statements do not only reflect political oneupmanship. These statements, coupled with the Israeli conduct in the ongoing peace talks, show that Israel only seeks to consecrate the occupation, build biblical Israel, and subjugate the Arab region. Since

the convocation of the Madrid conference, Israeli politicians and generals have been lending half-hearted support for the peace process. They are not sincere in their handling of the international and U.S. efforts to achieve peace.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: The world has continued to feel a deliberate Israeli determination to scuttle the peace process and overlook the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. Israel is making feverish attempts to circumvent these resolutions, undermine them, and give them interpretations that would enable the aggressors to retain the gains of aggression and occupation.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH wonders: Given all these international resolutions, which are the terms of reference of the peace process, this Israeli determination to defy the international community's wishes, and these constant Israeli human rights abuses, should the international community not act to render Israel accountable to the this community, particularly since less dangerous situations have resulted in the punishment of entire peoples and nations?

Israel Said Continuing To 'Confuse the Issues'

PM1502150494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Feb 94 p 2

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Not Optimistic, Accuses Israel of Confusing Issues"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—On the eve of the resumption of the Washington talks, which begin today among leaders of the Arab delegations and Israel in the framework of the Middle East peace process, Israel continues to adopt

fluctuating and unfixed positions vis-a-vis the foundations of the peace process and the achievement of progress on the tracks involving it and the Arab parties. In fact it preempted the negotiations by casting doubt on their results, describing them as futile.

Syria yesterday expressed a kind of pessimism about the possibility of achieving any progress. A Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Israel continues to confuse the issues as a result of its position rejecting peace and the separation policy it is pursuing, which has resulted in the Oslo and Cairo agreements with the PLO. Through this policy it is seeking to infiltrate Arab ranks. The official pointed out that Israel's request to raise the level of representation in the negotiations on the Syrian track centers on its reliance on the concessions offered to it by the Palestinian side, since this request came immediately after the Cairo agreement. He said: No matter how many agreements of that kind are concluded, they cannot lead to a solution in the Middle East, especially as the U.S. Administration and the world are committed to the foundations of the peace process and a comprehensive and just peace is an international demand just as it is an Arab and regional demand.

The Syrian official described the new Washington round of negotiations as sensitive and delicate. He said they are bound to reveal the new Israeli orientation, even though nothing has yet been issued by Israel to indicate that it is offering something new through its delegation to Washington.

The official said that Syria continues to receive from Washington assurances about the U.S. commitment to the foundations of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan**Official Announces Four-Day Cease-Fire for Kabul***LD1502163894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] A four-day cease-fire between forces of the Islamic state forces and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] came into force beginning at 0500 on 15 February.

A high authority of the Islamic State of Afghanistan told BAKHTAR that, as demanded by peace councils, for the purpose of opening supply routes and in respect for the sacred month of Ramadan, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has agreed to implement a cease-fire with the forces of Hezb-e Eslami in Kabul alone. During this period, peace delegations will observe the opening of highways to Kabul and the free flow of transport along these highways.

The source said the jihad declared against the Dostam looter militia by the president of our country is continuing. Dostam is in no way a party to the current cease-fire. The Islamic state will observe a complete cease-fire during these four days, provided that the opposition side also observes it.

Further on Truce*PM1602111194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Feb 94 p 8*

[Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan report: "Hekmatyar and Rabbani Accept Four-day Truce Beginning Today"]

[Excerpts] Peshawar from Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan; Geneva (United Nations), REUTER—After six weeks of fierce fighting, the two warring parties in Kabul have agreed on a four-day truce to make way for a study of the causes of the war and ways of resolving the crisis between President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Afghan Reconcilian Committee Chairman Jalaloddin Haqqani told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the truce in Kabul "will begin at 0500 Tuesday [15 February] and will last for four days."

Haqqani, who heads a committee consisting of some 100 commanders and ulema, added: "We have, from both sides, written assurances of adherence to the cease-fire and cooperation for the sake of probing the main causes of the crisis."

Asked by AL-HAYAH if the cease-fire would also apply to the Uzbek forces against whom the Afghan president declared jihad and refused to agree a cease-fire with, Haqqani said: "There will be a cease-fire between the camps of Rabbani and Hekmatyar." He reaffirmed that both parties to the conflict had agreed to a truce.

Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar told AL-HAYAH that "the Higher Coordination Council has agreed to a cease-fire provided it is used to find a mechanism for the settlement of the current crisis, as follows: Unconditional resignation of the president (Rabbani), declaration of Kabul a demilitarized zone, removal of the armed units from it within a week, and the formation of a provisional government within two weeks." [passage omitted]

Haqqani made an appeal through AL-HAYAH to the Islamic governments and organizations to provide urgent aid for the Afghan capital. Emotionally, he said: "The situation is extremely tragic, with scores of families without shelter, clothes, or food. The Muslims must help in this critical period."

Hekmatyar Faction Blocks Aid Convoys to Rival Groups*NC1502203894 Paris AFP in English 1954 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 15 (AFP)—The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction of Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has decided to block humanitarian aid convoys to parts of Kabul controlled by its opponents, sources said Tuesday.

Ustad Saeed [name as received], who represents the Hezb in Peshawar, Pakistan, said no convoy would be allowed "to travel to military bases," but three markets had been opened for civilians in those parts of the capital controlled by the faction or its allies.

The decision to stop aid going to areas controlled by former defence minister Ahmed Shah Masood follows a warning by the United Nations that some 200,000 people in the capital face famine after weeks of fighting.

Saeed said the move came after accusations that supplies recently brought in by an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) convoy were distributed to Masood troops.

The ICRC has denied the claim saying that the distribution of supplies to the population remained at all times under its control.

An ICRC convoy carrying medical supplies was turned away from Kabul Sunday and had to return to Jalalabad in the east, according to a journalist from the French newspaper, LE FIGARO, who was travelling with the convoy.

The journalist also said that Hekmatyar had told him in an interview that he was determined to set up a complete blockade of the capital.

Analysts said the blockade was aimed at either causing a mass evacuation of the centre of Kabul by civilians or to push the population into a revolt against President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Masood.

Several UN trucks are waiting in Jalalabad for permission to travel, a UN source said.

The Hezb controls the main road between Pakistan and Kabul as well as the southern approach to the city along the Logar highway.

Hekmatyar Said To Help Unite Khalq, Parcham Communists

LD1502195194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 94

[By BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY commentator—read by announcer]

[Text] On the fifth anniversary of the escape of the occupying Soviet forces from Afghanistan, events in the country are moving in two different ways. The Islamic State of Afghanistan, as the center of the gathering of real mojahedin, is defending the results of the jihad. And the mojahedin continue to sacrifice themselves in continuing their holy jihad to eliminate the last remnants of the foreigners' hirelings like the infamous Karmal-Dostam group. But Golboddin Hekmatyar, the known wheeler-dealer of the period of jihad, has, in alliance with Parcham and Khalq, the two factions of the Communist Party, started a rebellion against the mojahedin of Afghanistan and the Islamic State. Golboddin, on the one hand by his coalition with the so-called National Movement, which is headed by nation-seller Karmal, has embarked on the killing of the people of Kabul. On the other hand with the atheist Tanay [exiled former defense minister under Najibollah] he gathered around him the band of Khalqis and instructed him to embark on the establishment of the so-called peace movement outside Afghanistan.

It is not without a reason that at the time of the attack by Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam and on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the escape of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, once again the communist Shahnawaz Tanay raises his voice, and in cooperation with Golboddin he expresses his opposition to all jihadi leaders and Afghan mojahedin. This shows that to reach his sinister goals, Golboddin is serving as an instrument for the reunion of Khalqis and Parchamis. But for the mojahedin the fifth anniversary of the escape of the Soviet occupier from Afghanistan serves as a strong motive for the consolidation of the jihad's trenches against the defeated communists of Khalq and Parcham and their ill-nature. The heroic affirmative response of all jihadi organizations to the holy jihad against the Karmal-Dostam militia reflects this fact. The situation of the country and the coordination of the jihadi organizations to crush the Karmal-Dostam militia show that the mojahed Afghan nation is determined to completely eliminate from the Islamic State the twin movements of Tanay and Dostam on the sixth anniversary of the escape of the Soviet forces. And Golboddin who against the wishes of all mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami

[Islamic Party] has formed an unholy alliance with them will not have a better fate than them.

India

Singh, Moynihan Meet; Janata Dal Criticizes 'Interference'

BK1502161794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has underlined the need for India and the United States to cooperate against terrorism for promoting peace. Mr. Dinesh Singh told the U.S. senator, Mr. Moynihan, who called on him in New Delhi today, that it is also necessary for Pakistan to desist from supporting terrorism if it is serious about normalizing relations. Both also discussed Indo-U.S. relations and felt that the economic relationship is picking up day by day. Mr. Moynihan said substantial increase in the U.S. economic engagement in India augurs well for the future.

The Janata Dal has strongly criticized the U.S. interference in India's internal affairs. The national executive of the party, in a resolution adopted at its meeting in New Delhi today, said that the U.S. attempt to use the Kashmir issue to violate Indian sovereignty and Washington's comments on Punjab amount to rank interference.

Army Withdraws From Kanpur as Situation Improves

BK1502163094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, with the continued improvement of the situation in Kanpur, the Army has been completely withdrawn from the city. Our Kanpur correspondent, Raghunandan Chaturvedi, quoting official sources, says 22 companies of paramilitary and police are keeping a watch in sensitive areas. In the (Babupurva) locality, the curfew has been relaxed for three hours for the first time today in (Dankapurva), except in blocks and transport mega pockets. The situation continued to be peaceful during curfew relaxation. The state government has constituted a one-man commission to go into the incidents in Varanasi during the first week of this month.

Meanwhile, Banaras Hindu University administration has ordered an inquiry into the death of a student in the university hospital last Sunday [13 February] and the incidents of violence which followed his death. A retired judge of the Allahabad High Court will conduct the inquiry. The bundh [strike] called by the Students Union in Varanasi against the indefinite closure of the Banaras Hindu University has had a mixed response today. Police arrested over 50 persons, including the Students Union leader, for defying prohibitory orders under Section 144.

'Air Enclave' To Be Set Up for Andaman Surveillance

BK1602050894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] The government proposes to set up an air enclave in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for better surveillance and to prevent poaching by foreign trawlers. The Coast Guard is also being strengthened with more fast patrol vessels and additional aircraft for air surveillance. This information was given by the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, to the members of the parliamentary consultative committee during a recent visit to the islands.

Third Test Flight of Agni Missile Set for 19 Feb

BK1602103194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] The third test flight of the country's intermediate range ballistic missile, Agni [fire], will take place on Saturday [19 February] at Chandipur on sea in Orissa. According to official sources at Balasore, the decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting of defense authorities and the district administration yesterday.

It may be recalled that the third launch of the missile slated for seventh of last month was postponed at the last minute following the detection of a technical snag in one of the onboard systems.

Iran**Report Details Terrorist Schemes, Global Connections**

TA1502193094 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Feb 94 p 9

[Report by Riyad 'Alam-al-Din in Beirut and Nayil Mukhaybar in Paris]

[Text] A few days ago, several West European intelligence agencies received a top-secret report warning of armed squads arriving in some countries and preparing to carry out armed operations in coordination with fundamentalist cells and Iranian-supervised and -financed underground organizations. The report urged the countries concerned to adopt the most stringent precautionary measures in anticipation of an international plot with many scenarios that could be implemented by citizens of different nationalities and cover a large number of European states, headed by Germany and France.

The report noted that crucial meetings were held several weeks ago in Tehran for this purpose at the Iranian foreign intelligence headquarters in Firuzi Palace. The meetings were attended by representatives of the world's most dangerous armed factions and movements,

including the Fatah-Revolutionary Council led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; the Japanese Red Army; the Irish Republican Army; the Armenian Secret Army, represented by a woman close to its leader, Hakopian, who was assassinated in Athens in 1986; the Lebanese Revolutionary Organization established by Murshid Shabu; and the Lebanese Hizballah.

These organizations were represented by senior officials who were responding to an invitation by a high-ranking Iranian authority eager to gather in Tehran an assortment of the world's most prominent armed networks. It has been learned that Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran); Mohammad Musavi, the information official at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut; other leaders of the Iranian hardline trend; and coordinators of international armed squads participated in these meetings.

A Unified Command and Commandos

The report, abridged copies of which were received by several West European intelligence agencies that follow Iranian moves closely, revealed that the meetings focused on the establishment of a unified command by Iran for these factions and the preparation of a plan to disperse these networks in most countries of the world, where they would be ready to strike at U.S. and European interests and assassinate politicians and diplomats upon receiving a codeword from Iran. This would happen if Iran were to be exposed to any attack or international blockade or threats seeking to tighten the stranglehold on it, increase its political and economic isolation, and provoke disturbances and internal strife that endanger its security and order.

In fact, many intelligence agencies had been following Iranian secret moves with great concern since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord in Washington on 13 September. Since that time, these agencies have noticed suspicious activities by international networks, Palestinian factions, and fundamentalist organizations and movements opposed to the accord. The thread of all these activities led to Iran. Then the meetings and visits began to intensify. At these meetings, hosted by Tehran, plans were drawn up to establish a front opposed to the Gaza-Jericho accord that would seek to thwart the accord by force. Information indicates that a reward of several million dollars was set for anyone who would assassinate Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and that Iran utilized all its ties and contacts with the international networks to have them participate in a plot starting at the Arab level and ending at the international level. Even mercenaries of various nationalities were recruited to facilitate this mission and divert suspicion.

In recent weeks European intelligence organs have become convinced that armed operations will be carried out at a growing pace. These organs received information that acts of opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli accord,

which have begun in the occupied territories, will gradually evolve into operations covering the entire Palestinian arena, then Lebanon, and later will shift to other locations in the world, specifically Europe.

This information adds that Iran has opened its Army camps, especially (Karnaji) near Qom, to commandos from the General Command, Hizballah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. They received special training by Iranian Revolutionary Guards officers. At the same time, Tehran has asked Sudan to open its camps for training special units of "Afghan Arabs" and fundamentalist exiles living in European countries. In Lebanon, increasing activity has been observed in Hizballah camps in the western al-Biqā' where Iranian military advisers have been training fundamentalist elements who arrived recently from several Arab states in guerrilla warfare, the use of explosives, and car bombings. Intelligence reports have emphasized the presence of elements from the Japanese Red Army in al-Biqā' and Beirut. Those elements have been dispersed in Popular Front-General Command centers and camps in al-Biqā'. These reports say that the Japanese Red Army elements entered Lebanon with the assistance of the Iranian Embassy and under the supervision of "N.N." who works in the foreign operations branch of the Iranian foreign intelligence service, headed by 'Ali Fallahian. Meanwhile, Asadollah Reza 'Asaker, the Revolutionary Guard official in Lebanon, has intensified his secret meetings with the commanders of Hizballah's internal and external operations units.

Activating the European Networks

About two weeks ago Western intelligence organs that coordinate antiterrorist operations within the framework of a special secret plan codenamed "Kilowatt," which covers more than 20 Western countries, received reports from their agents in the Middle East—who work in full coordination with their counterparts in the region—urging them to forestall derailment of the peace process. Those reports stated that the codeword was sent out at the recent meeting in Firuzi Palace and that the dispersal of armed networks' elements throughout the world had begun, accompanied by "important orders." Apparently, the uncovering of a plot prepared by a group affiliated with the Abu-Nidal Organization to assassinate an Arab official during his participation at the Nonaligned summit in India in the middle of this month is part of the international terrorist conspiracy hatched in Tehran. The disclosure of the arrival in India at the end of last month of Fatah-Revolutionary Council groups induced most Western countries, which received information about the Tehran mobilization meetings of armed fundamentalist, radical, leftist, and separatist movements from different countries, to declare a state of maximum alert in their security and intelligence organs. In fact, reports from several European countries, including France and Germany, indicated that suspicious movements by radical networks and elements had been observed in their territory and that work had begun to

reorganize, revive, and activate existing Iranian networks in preparation for implementing fresh missions and operations.

It has been learned that al-Haj "A.J.," who is Lebanese and a Hizballah security official, moved three weeks ago to Iran and held intensive meetings with Iranian security officials aimed at forming and organizing terrorist networks in a number of European countries, especially Germany, a country that is well-known to him and in which he had participated in organizing several operations. Many meetings have reportedly been held in Tehran between this security official and 'Imad Maghniyah, one of Hizballah's most prominent elements, whose name was mentioned in the kidnapping of Western hostages in Beirut alongside that of "A.J."

It is common knowledge that Maghniyah lives in Tehran and holds an Iranian diplomatic passport. Western intelligence reports mention him as general coordinator of the recently reorganized networks in Europe.

Commentary on Israeli-Palestinian Talks Resumption

LD1502202094 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1930 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Under conditions that are reported to be very tense in the occupied regions of Palestine because many towns have been surrounded by Zionist troops, the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have resumed talks in the coastal Egyptian city of Taba. Under an agreement concluded between the two sides last week, the Palestinian team eventually agreed to jointly man with Israel border passages linking the autonomous regions with Egypt and Jordan. It has also consented to assign the security of Jewish townships and movement of their residents in the occupied Palestine to the Zionist army.

Of course, conclusion of the agreement last week led to a series of protests and objections by various Palestinian parties and the Syrian press. According to those opposing the agreement, what has actually taken place is the transfer of total control of the border check posts to the Zionist regime. [Word indistinct] the Israeli troops will have veto power concerning movement in the autonomous regions. The Zionist regime has even opposed the hoisting of the Palestinian flag on the common border check posts.

In fact, insistence of the Zionist regime and the United States on the conclusion of such an agreement has once again proved the reality to the world people that the Israeli claim on a just and broad-based peace is totally false. From the outset of the negotiations with the Arab delegation, the Zionist regime clearly proved the point that it wants peace outside the framework of the Security Council resolutions, and with minimum concessions to the Arabs. The obstacles which Israel has created in the negotiations from the very beginning, either during the

rightist government's rule or the rule of the present leftist faction, clearly showed the point that in the deal what cannot be included is the restoration of the lost rights of the Arabs.

The Zionist regime not only does not honor the agreement that it has itself signed, but its prime minister clearly announces that the timetable for the withdrawal was a mistake right from the beginning, and that at least one month is required to reach an agreement with the Palestinians.

Set against this, the Palestinian nation, with no confidence in the Israeli promises and paying no attention to the U.S. support—the main backer of the Zionist regime's attacks—is continuing the struggle by hoisting the flag of the Palestinian nation's oppression and taking its just cry on the intifadah scene [as heard] to the world people.

Commentary Reviews Israeli-Syrian Negotiations

NC1602094594 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT*
16 Feb 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Arab-Israeli talks in Washington to resolve the long-lasting Middle East problem resumed yesterday after a two-week recess. This is the second round of talks in the U.S. capital after U.S. President Bill Clinton's meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad.

These two rounds of talks are significantly different from the discussions during the past 11 rounds because of the semiopen nature that has been granted to these two rounds of talks. A State Department spokesman has also described the Arab-Israeli talks as unofficial. This shows that the nature of the current talks is actually midway between Israel's persistent call for unofficial and closed talks with Syria and Syria's insistence on official and open talks within the framework of international regulations. Israel is seeking to repeat the experience of the secret PLO-Israeli talks with Syria as well. However, Damascus, which has strongly criticized this behavior by the PLO and Israel, does not want to give in.

The second round of the semiovert talks in Washington has started away from the limelight at a time when a suitable political atmosphere for compromise is not discernible. Syria, which had described the signing of the Gaza-Jericho self-rule accord in Washington between 'Arafat and Tel Aviv as a blow to the Middle East peace process, has described the recent PLO-Israeli agreement as a new tragedy. Damascus has also stated in advance that any expectation for progress in the current talks is useless. The Zionist regime too has called for a postponement of the talks or raising the level of the talks.

Shim'on Peres, foreign minister of the occupying regime, has called for a meeting between the heads of Tel Aviv

and Damascus. But Syria's political officials say that with this request, Israel is trying to escape from the content of the talks and to stick only to the form of the talks.

The Washington talks concerning Jordan and Palestine are at a standstill because of the signing of agreements, while the parts concerning Syria and Lebanon do not present a very hopeful outlook because of Israel's stances, especially when the experience of the PLO-Israeli accord has not been able to gain much popularity either.

Motives Behind U.S. Foreign Aid Distribution Examined

NC1302074994 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT*
13 Feb 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] A bill for foreign aid in 1994 amounting to \$20.861 billion has been submitted to Congress. The Zionist regime is to receive more than \$3 billion, while Egypt is to receive \$2.116 billion of this amount.

Political observers believe that such so-called financial aid is to pursue objectives that are 100-percent political in nature. The six-point criteria of the U.S. State Department, which is in charge of distributing this aid, does not fully justify the method of distribution, and this signals the existence of other covert motives.

The allocation of more than \$6 billion of this aid to boost the U.S. economy by expanding commercial ties with East European countries and countries of the former Soviet Union shows that the major objective of the United States behind such aid is to expand its foreign markets by creating dependence. Also, the allocation of about \$3 billion of this aid to the defense of democracy on the international scene reveals another truth. The use of this aid by Israel, whose hands are stained with the blood of the Palestinian people, as well as by the Egyptian regime, which imprisons or murders dozens of combatant Muslims on charges of fundamentalism, shows what kind of democracy the United States supports.

The allocation of \$5.225 billion, or in other words, one-fourth of U.S. foreign aid, to Middle East peace reveals how important the success of the current talks on solving the Middle East crisis is for Washington and the White House rulers. Until now, the Zionist regime has successfully played its role of middleman between the West and part of the Third World and has been able to increase the dependence of these countries on the West. Extensive U.S. investment in making the so-called Middle East peace process successful will decrease the regional differences that Israel and the United States are facing and will pave the way for the infiltration of the Zionist regime in the Arab and Islamic world.

Even though U.S. plans for extending financial aid are based on political realities and the extent of cooperation among governments, there are other variants that upset these plans. When the Camp David compromise deal was signed, various agreements in the field of political and economic cooperation and especially in the field of tourism, industry, and agriculture were signed. However, the steely determination of the Egyptian people prevented the implementation of most of these agreements. Now the Zionist regime's industrial and agricultural cooperation with Egypt, as well as tourist exchanges between the two countries, are at the zero level. This reality shows how effective the people are in the outcome of decisions.

Georgian Foreign Minister Chikvaide Begins Visit

*LD1502180394 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT
15 Feb 94*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaide heading a delegation arrived here Tuesday and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Upon arrival at the airport he told IRNA that the main purpose of his visit was deepening and expansion of bilateral ties and cooperation in all areas. He said that during the recent visit of the Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze to Iran the two countries had reached considerable understandings on light industries, machine building mining, and steel mill.

Velayati also said that the Georgian embassy in Tehran would be inaugurated shortly, and that the future visit of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Tbilisi would bring about a basic development in the two countries' relations.

Iran and Georgia inked eight agreements in economic, cultural, commercial, gas, and transportation fields during the previous meetings of the two countries officials, which are to be followed up during Chikvaide's visit.

Meets With Velayati

*LD1602095994 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT
16 Feb 94*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—Foreign ministers of Iran and Georgia held their first round of talks here Tuesday [15 February] evening and discussed Tehran-Tbilisi ties, key regional issues and the current crisis in Caucasus.

Georgian Minister Aleksandre Chikvaide, heading a ranking delegation, arrived here earlier Tuesday.

Chikvaide briefed his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the latest political and economic developments in his country as well as Tbilisi ties with its neighbors.

The Georgian official considered as "indispensable" the settlement of conflicts in Caucasus with the aim to establish peace and stability in the region.

He said Tehran-Tbilisi ties are at a "very high level." He also underlined the need to exchange ranking delegations between the two countries with the aim to perpetuate mutual consultation and exchange of views.

Terming as "important" the recent visit by Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze to Iran and the agreements reached between the two countries during the visit, Chikvaide said the ground is prepared for upgrading bilateral cooperation.

He also thanked Iran for the humanitarian aid the Islamic republic sent to his country at one of the most crucial junctures.

In response, Velayati expressed hope that the outcome of the talks between the two countries would be "constructive" and "fruitful".

Voicing concern over continuation of the existing crisis in Caucasus, he referred to the complexity and sensitivity of the situation in the area and underlined the need for restoration of an honorable and just peace and tranquility while taking into account the rights and views of all the interested parties.

The Iranian minister also referred to the political, geographical and ethnical structure of the region and said that cooperation among all the neighboring countries is the most important factor for the establishment of a political balance in the region.

The two also discussed Iran-Georgia economic cooperation and underscored the need for expanded cooperation in all domains.

Velayati called for further activation of the joint commission and exchange of delegations in agriculture and transportation fields.

Commentary on Talks With Georgian Foreign Minister

*NC1602112294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT
16 Feb 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Georgian foreign minister arrived in Tehran yesterday at the head of a political-economic committee and was welcomed by our Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati. The objective behind this visit is said to be the expansion and consolidation of Iranian-Georgian relations and cooperation in all fields. In the talks that were held between the officials of Tehran and Tbilisi, the expansion of the two countries' relations, important regional problems, the current crises in the Caucasus, and other topics were discussed.

Iranian-Georgian relations are rooted in the two countries' history. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, historic and cultural ties have linked these two countries more than ever before.

From the political aspect, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports a peaceful solution of the problems in the Caucasus. Tehran has always stated its readiness to mediate between the conflicting sides in the various areas of the Caucasus. From Tehran's point of view, the continuation of diplomatic efforts between the conflicting sides and the neighboring countries which are playing the role of mediators is necessary in order to end the crises in the Caucasus, especially when the region's political, geographic, and ethnic fabric makes cooperation among neighboring countries for the creation of a political balance necessary.

On the level of economic and cultural relations, eight agreements in various fields were signed during past visits by the two countries' officials, and the recent visit by the Georgian foreign minister to our country is actually a continuation of earlier bilateral talks and the implementation of agreements that have been reached.

Currently, Iran and Georgia have started extensive cooperation in the field of light industries, machine-building, and mine and metal-ore explorations. Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran has extended humanitarian assistance to Georgia at the most sensitive junctures, and this shows the extent of the affection that the Iranian nation and government feel toward the Georgian people.

Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Georgia as well as among other countries in the Caucasus will be better implemented when regional conflicts are solved and when tranquility and stability are reestablished. Moreover, the two countries' joint commissions as well as the joint commissions of other regional countries should become more active, and delegations in various fields be exchanged among the countries.

At any rate, with the opening of the Georgian Embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran and with the upcoming visit of our President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Tbilisi, fundamental changes are expected in the two countries' relations and the way is expected to be further paved for expanded relations between the two countries.

Pakistani Envoy Discusses Kashmir With Larijani
LD1502181594 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Special envoy of Pakistan's prime minister, N.D. Khan, discussed the Kashmir issue with Vice-Chairman of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee Mohammad-Javad Larijani here Tuesday [15 February]. Khan in the meeting said that Pakistan intends to propose a resolution on the rights of the Kashmiri Muslims to the future United Nations meeting in Geneva.

Expressing grave concern over the condition of Muslims in Kashmir, he called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to support the resolution.

Larijani in reply said the Iranian Majles would decisively support any efforts aimed at the restoration of Muslims rights in Kashmir. Majles is ready to offer constructive views for the preparation of a comprehensive and practical resolution in this regard, he added. Khan who is visiting several member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, also held talks on the same issue with chairman of the Majles Human Rights Committee Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani later in the day.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Appoints Head of Presidential Office

LD1502163094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a decree appointed Seyyed Hoseyn Mar'ashi as the head of the Presidential Office. He also thanked Mar'ashi's predecessor, Mir-Mohammadi, for his 13 years of service.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Appoints New Deputy President

LD1502163594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Today in a decree President Hashemi-Rafsanjani appointed Mr. Seyyed Mohammad Mirmohammadi as deputy president and secretary general of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization. [passage omitted]

Secular Party Leader Urges Clerics To Step Down

PM1502150994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Safa Ha'iri: "Nation of Iran Party Leader Urges Clergy To Abandon Power"]

[Excerpts] Paris—Iran yesterday celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution amid calls by its leaders for mobilization against "foreign aggression" and the "economic blockade" imposed on the country. Meanwhile, a prominent Iranian opposition leader has revealed that "new forces and a popular movement in the country are prepared to surge forward to end the repressive dictatorship and replace it with a democratic regime capable of saving Iran from catastrophe."

Tens of thousands of people poured onto Tehran's streets in the direction of the great Freedom Square carrying placards proclaiming "No Settlement With Enemies of Revolution," and shouting such slogans as "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." [passage omitted]

In an exclusive interview with AL-HAYAH from Tehran, Daryush Foruhar (65 years old), leader of the

Nation of Iran Party (the oldest secular organization in the country), painted a gloomy picture of the economic, political, and social situation. He urged the clergy ruling Iran to "to vacate the place quietly and let a democratic popular regime take over power and rescue the country from the abyss it has been in since those who were hungry for power wrested that power, isolated the country, and cast it into the darkest reigns."

Foruhar accused the regime of deviating "from the revolution's noble objectives" of turning Iran into a strong, prosperous, and developing country taking its special place in the world. He said that the dictatorial rulers "who have savagely crushed the people's rights to happiness, civil liberties, democracy for the parties and the press, and freedom of publication and expression, have isolated themselves from the people. History will show that a repressive regime rejected by the people cannot survive."

Contrary to the claim by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders that Iran has made "unparalleled progress in all fields," Foruhar described the situation as "catastrophic." He spoke of "massive unemployment, shortages in almost everything including such fields as health, medicine, and education, corruption, bureaucracy, high prices, and an increasing gap between the poor and the new rich, while the authorities turn a deaf ear to the people's grievances." He underscored the "social disturbances and the destruction of industry and agriculture." [passage omitted]

Foruhar refused to comment on the alleged assassination attempt [on Hashemi-Rafsanjani], but he warned against "the dangerous game" played by the regime in pitting the Sunnis against the Shiites, as was recently the case in Zahedan, which witnessed bloody clashes at the beginning of this month between the town's population (mostly Sunnis) and the security forces. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Resignation of Radio-TV Chief

NC1502143494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian
Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Station commentary: "Changes in Some Key Posts in the Clerics' Regime"]

[Text] Following differences and prolonged rivalry between the supporters and opponents of clerical President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Islamic Majles, and after numerous attacks on the director general of the regime's radio and television who is also brother of the president, Mohammad Hashemi has been forced to resign from his post. Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister 'Ali Larijani has been appointed to replace him.

It has been decided to appoint Mohammad Hashemi as the UN envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in place of Kamal Kharrazi, while the latter is to assume office as the Culture and Islamic Guidance minister. Mohammad Hashemi has been the head of the largest propaganda

apparatus of the regime, the radio and television, for the past 12 years. During the past two years, he has been subjected to the taunts of those in the regime who have been displeased with Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policies. They have objected that the radio and television has exceeded the boundaries specified by the Islamic Republic of Iran and their activities have not conformed to Islamic criteria.

Until now, the radio and television apparatus has been accused of seeking to propagate a non-Islamic culture and to induct non-Islamic personnel. In reaction to the criticism of the radio and television by the Majles deputies and individuals affiliated with what is known as the hardline faction, the Majles set up a special panel. The results of this panel's investigations mostly affirmed the views of the critics and those who were displeased with the radio's and television's performance.

The ruling faction in the clerics' regime did not wish to magnify this issue and, to give the impression that it takes notice of the criticism of opponents, finally removed Mohammad Hashemi from this post. At the same time, to maintain his official status and to prove that the government had not been influenced by the views and beliefs of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's critics, he was appointed the regime's UN representative.

In view of the fact that these critics had also intensified their objections against the former culture and Islamic guidance minister and had forced him to resign and that recently they did not have much to say about 'Ali Larijani, the Minister for Islamic Guidance and Culture who has taken Mohammad Hashemi's place, it indicates that the stronger faction inside the regime has taken into account the views of the people known as the hardline faction and has sought their approval.

It is likely that the appointment of Mohammad Hashemi, the brother of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as the regime's ambassador to the United Nations may be designed to divert Western opinion about the president. The appointment of Mohammad Hashemi to the United Nations gives the impression that certain developments have taken place showing flexibility and leniency toward the West.

The main question about this reshuffle of the regime's pawns is: Will the internal critics of the regime be pleased with the actions of Kamal Kharrazi, who is being considered for Islamic Guidance minister? In general, regardless of whether they conform to public interest, these changes seem to be aimed at placating the opponents and supporters of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and eliciting their concurrence in the form of a deal between the two sides, while the hardline faction considers it a kind of victory.

Nepal**Opposition Urges Emergency Parliament Session***BK1502141694 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 15 (AFP)—Nepal's main political opposition party has appealed to King Birendra to call an emergency session of parliament in a bid to stall the prime minister's plans to dissolve the legislative body, a party source said Tuesday.

The Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) has appealed to the king in a letter signed by 25 percent of its MPs.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala hopes his ruling Nepali Congress (NC) will win a comfortable majority if mid-term polls are held, an NC source said.

The NCP (UML) in its letter maintained that the monarch should not dissolve parliament more than two years before its term expires nor should he call for mid-term polls on the advice of the prime minister alone.

"We think sensitive national issues like the dissolution of parliament and calling of the mid-term polls should be publicly debated in parliament itself before Koirala advises the king," the communist source said.

The king in the meantime is believed to have asked Koirala if he enjoys support for his plan from his parliamentary party.

Koirala Tuesday held a meeting of NC MPs at his residence but more than 50 parliamentarians, who support party President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and supreme leader of the NC Ganesh Man Singh, stayed away.

They will however, be attending at crucial meeting of the NC Central Working Committee (NCCWC) Wednesday at Singh's residence to decide the fate of the prime minister.

Pro-democracy students, NC MPs and party activists turned against Koirala after Bhattarai's defeat earlier this month in a by-election.

They blamed a statement by Koirala critical of Bhattarai for the polls defeat.

A source close to the Koirala camp said party MPs have suggested not holding mid-term polls and have called for unity between Singh, Bhattarai and Koirala, with the prime minister staying in office.

Political observers here said the king should oppose mid-term polls as elections would hamper his country's economy which has already suffered from devastating floods and landslides in July which killed more than 2,000 people.

Pakistan**Bhutto Rejects Indian Allegations of Interference***BK1502153494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, today refuted a statement attributed to her and said during her interview with BBC, she was making comparison between the situation in Indian-held Kashmir and the Indian Punjab. In an informal talk with newsmen in Islamabad today, the prime minister said what she had told BBC was that Kashmir was a disputed territory and if Pakistan had not interfered in India's internal affairs when it was facing problems in east Punjab, then how could it do so now. India, the prime minister said, is trying to mislead its own people and the international community by putting the blame on Pakistan for the situation in held Kashmir. Pakistan's policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of its neighbors, she added, proves Pakistan's respect for international law. Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto said India has launched a propaganda campaign that Pakistan is fanning trouble in occupied Kashmir. She said the indigenous movement in occupied Kashmir is being nurtured by the Kashmiris themselves and it is their spirit to render every sacrifice for their right of self-determination. She said Indian allegations were false and baseless and Pakistan has exposed Indian human rights violations in held Kashmir.

The prime minister regretted that the opposition tried to distort her every statement, but it would not deter her from serving the country. She urged the leader of the opposition to give up the negative attitude and work for promotion of consensus on national issues. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the government and opposition may have political differences, but there should be consensus on issues of national importance. The prime minister said it was during Nawaz Sharif's tenure that Pakistan was blamed for terrorism despite the fact that India itself was indulging in human rights violations in held Kashmir.

Defense Minister: 'No Real Danger' of War With India*BK1602023394 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 15 Feb 94 p 3*

[Editorial: "Indian Designs—The Need for Caution"]

[Text] Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has said that there is no danger of war with India, but our Armed Forces are fully vigilant and are keeping a close watch on the situation along the border. When asked about the Indian threat of a limited war on the Line of Control, the defense minister observed that wars are never limited, but I am confident that there is no real danger of an India-Pakistan war at this time.

The defense minister also expressed his view on Pakistan-U.S. relations and expressed the hope that some

ways and means will be found to repeal the Pressler Amendment. We have paid \$658 million for F-16 aircraft and \$1 billion in total and we are still hopeful that a way will be found to supply these aircraft. We are, however, also considering acquiring aircraft from other sources to strengthen our Air Force, the defense minister added.

The defense minister's view that there is no danger of an India-Pakistan war at the moment is encouraging. Pakistan, nonetheless, needs to be more vigilant in view of Indian designs. Just the other day, Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan told a news conference in New Delhi that if the law and order situation in Kashmir does not improve, it will lead to serious consequences. He ruled out any negotiations with the Kashmiris to resolve the struggle. The fact is that the Indian attitude is becoming more and more aggressive, with an increase in tension in Kashmir. Recently, Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma made a personal attack on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, ignoring all diplomatic protocol. Two members of the Indian Cabinet have also attacked Bhutto personally. These incidents can help one easily assess India's thinking and attitude. Under these circumstances, Pakistan cannot overlook its defense even for a moment.

Pakistan has been continuously striving to resolve its core dispute with India peacefully. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also said today that he wants to resolve the Kashmir dispute with India through peaceful means. He disclosed that during the recent meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, he met Indonesian President Suharto and proposed that the Nonaligned Movement play the role of mediator to resolve the Kashmir dispute. He also told Suharto that if India were to nominate him as mediator or agreed to set up a committee, either of the above would be acceptable to Pakistan. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that even though bilateral disputes cannot be discussed at the platform of the Nonaligned Movement, he has suggested that the organization find a way to help resolve the basic dispute between the two member-states—India and Pakistan. The Pakistan foreign minister's observations make it amply clear that we are ready to go to any possible extent to resolve all our differences with India peacefully.

In her recent interview with the BBC, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto revealed that she helped Rajiv Gandhi contain the insurgency in Punjab and she did this because she did not consider interference in internal affairs of any other country appropriate. At that time, the movement of the Sikhs was continuing with all its intensity and it could have resulted in anything. An independent Khalistan state could have also come into being in east Punjab. It is possible that certain circles inside Pakistan may make Benazir Bhutto a target of their criticism in the wake of her aforementioned revelation, but it reflects that Pakistan is always willing to go to every possible extent to normalize relations with India and to eliminate the causes of tension. Unfortunately,

the Indian Government has never responded to Pakistan's gesture of goodwill with goodwill and has rejected all Pakistani proposals to resolve the Kashmir dispute through peaceful means.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has done well to declare that Pakistan will not withdraw its resolution on Kashmir from the UN Human Rights Commission; and if the resolution is not approved there, Islamabad will not desist from taking it to UN General Assembly. The foreign minister's declaration makes it clear that while Pakistan will continue to do everything possible to achieve a peaceful settlement, it will also remain firm on its principled stand and will not show any slackness in raising the Kashmir issue in international forums. Pakistan is not indulging in a confrontation with India, but in view of our bitter experiences of the past, we should remain vigilant and cautious against Indian designs and run our foreign policy in a manner in which the veracity of our stand is revealed to more and more nations and international public opinion continues to support our legitimate stand.

Foreign Minister Comments on Bosnia, Kashmir, Afghans

94AE0082A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Feb 94 p 8

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali by Randah Taqi-al-Din in Paris on 5 February: "Pakistan Foreign Minister to AL-HAYAH: We Do Not Understand the European and U.S. Position on Bosnia"]

[Text] Paris—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali has said that his country does not understand Europe's position, which does not permit Bosnia to defend itself. He accused the Americans of doing nothing to stop the war there. He added, in an interview with AL-HAYAH conducted in Paris yesterday, that the United States had not behaved reasonably towards an important partner such as Pakistan, and that the sanctions it imposed have hurt his country.

The Pakistani foreign minister touched on the Afghan question in his interview, saying that the reason for the failure of the peace accords there was the disqualification of the military sides from the solution and opining that there had to be a broad solution including all sides. Regarding the Egyptian "Afghans" who say that Pakistan expelled them from its territory, he said, "It was hard for us to distinguish between Egyptians and Sudanese, because they all carried Sudanese passports."

Asif Ali further confirmed that his country had made a decision to remain in Somalia for as long as its people required the presence of Pakistani forces. He also reaffirmed his demand that a referendum be held in Kashmir to grant its population the freedom of self-determination, and denied that his country had any intention to annex this region. The text of the interview follows.

Kashmir

Regarding the bases upon which, in Pakistan's view, a Kashmir settlement should rest, he said, "Our view is simple in this regard; there must be coexistence between the civilized entities of the world, and in accordance with Islamic principles, and with what United Nations law stipulates. There are the Security Council resolutions on Kashmir that must be implemented, chiefly the holding of a referendum by which the residents of Kashmir may decide whether they want to join the Indians, or Pakistan."

Addressing the likelihood of a Turkish-Pakistani solution in Bosnia after the visit of the two countries' prime ministers to Sarajevo, he said, "Our position on this crisis is one with that of the 52 countries of the Islamic Conference Organization. It stipulates the sovereignty of nations and respect for human rights. If the sovereignty of one country is destroyed, and that is accepted in principle, then the sovereignty of the other nations comes into question."

He believes that it is essential not to legitimize aggression through hasty solutions, saying that "a veiled peace will never lead to lasting peace; the two world wars are the best proof of that. Therefore we do not understand Europe's position. We do not understand how Europe made this costly mistake. The results of this mistake will be serious and dangerous for the future of Europe, the Atlantic alliance, and the UN. My view is that depriving a country of the right of self-defense is immoral, and we condemn it vigorously. Nor do we understand the reason why Europe does not take responsibility for the war going on in the middle of the continent. It holds to the principle of coexistence among religions and peoples, so why does Europe not do so in this matter?"

He discussed his belief that the United States has not taken a well-defined position on the war in Bosnia; he said that the Americans "are not doing a thing."

Relations With Washington

On another front, the foreign minister commented on the U.S. decision to freeze its aid to Pakistan because of doubts about its development of a nuclear bomb. "Traditionally we have had excellent relations with the United States, and we hope that they will return and resume in order to remove the misunderstanding arising primarily from the nuclear issue. The American law, known as the Pressler Amendment, forbids us from getting weapons systems for which we have paid more than \$1 billion in cash. This harms us and has made us feel that there is an anti-Pakistan bias." He added that Islamabad considers that the United States "has not behaved reasonably, especially towards one of its important partners." As to his nuclear policy, he said that he had explained to the three senators who visited his country recently that Pakistan had maintained to the international community that it will not develop an atomic bomb. He confirmed that Islamabad refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty because India

had not signed it and thus the problem was a regional one. He pointed out that his country had submitted very significant proposals in this regard. "We are ready to sign the treaty as soon as India signs it."

Neighboring Countries

Speaking of Pakistan's efforts, with Saudi Arabia, to mediate between the two warring sides in Afghanistan, he said, "I believe that the major groups have not taken part. This is my personal view, not as a foreign minister but as a political analyst. Now, our inclination is to reach an accord between all the neighboring countries of Afghanistan. We all agree on the solution, and we say that it must be a broad one embracing all sides, from the military men to the jihad factions and others. Only then will we be able to achieve a lasting solution, because historically, and over two and a half centuries, Afghanistan has been a country whose unity was based on a wide-ranging alliance." AL-HAYAH asked him whether Pakistan's rapprochement with Turkey, was aimed against Iran, and whether it was linked to his country's excellent relations with the Gulf states. He said, "Our relations with Turkey are not aimed at Iran. Iran is a friendly country and very close to us; it is a neighbor, bound to us by great understanding, just as with Afghanistan. Our relations are aimed at strengthening these ties. Regarding the Gulf, unfortunately Iran does not have excellent relations with the Gulf states, and some Gulf states are uneasy to some extent, especially after Iran seized some islands."

Addressing Egypt's request to have the Arab Afghans handed over, he said, "There are a number of Egyptian fighters who came to Afghanistan and had headquarters in Peshawar; they were fighting in Afghanistan and used Peshawar as a base. Some of them are charged with acts of terrorism in Egypt. We were recently asked to turn them over. It is very hard for us to distinguish between who is Egyptian and who is Sudanese, because the routes by which they came all passed through Khartoum, and their passports with visas from our embassy were Sudanese. The Egyptian interior minister and chief of intelligence visited us, and our chief of intelligence visited Egypt; I think that they can distinguish between an Egyptian for themselves, and a number of those were prevented from entering Pakistan." He explained that he thought these numbered between 20 and 30, "but we cannot hand over citizens with Sudanese passports to Egypt."

In response to a question on whether the withdrawal of the Europeans and the United States from Somalia would affect the mission of the Pakistani forces there, he said, "We do not make our decisions based on what the United States and Europe decide. We have decided to remain in Somalia for as long as the Somali people need us."

Editorial on Iraqi Goodwill Favors Close Ties

*BK1502142094 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu
14 Feb 94 p 10*

[Editorial: "Iraq's Expression of Goodwill for Pakistan"]

[Text] The gesture of goodwill shown by the Iraqi Government in releasing Pakistani prisoners in response to a letter from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is praiseworthy. Asif Ali Zardari went to Iraq as a special emissary of the prime minister with a consignment of medicines and a letter for President Saddam Husayn, where he was accorded an enthusiastic welcome. He went to seek the release of three Pakistani prisoners, but he found out in Baghdad that 24 Pakistanis were serving jail terms on various charges in that country. The Iraqi authorities, on Zardari's request, tracked down all Pakistani prisoners and released them immediately. Now, only one Pakistani remains in an Iraqi jail. He is accused of being involved in political activities. When Asif Ali Zardari returned to Islamabad with eight of the released prisoners, the prime minister received them at the airport, thanked the Iraqi Government, and noted that the purpose of sending a special emissary to Baghdad has been fulfilled. The release of the Pakistanis and their return at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan is a source of happiness and joy for the country. Efforts will be made to ensure early release of the lone Pakistani now held in Iraq. She said we are doing all this for the sake of Pakistan's glory and honor at the international level and to raise our voice in support of truth and justice. We hope the opposition will also cooperate with the government in this regard. The prime minister has rightly said that the return of the eight released Pakistanis will bring happiness to their homes and that a man feels especially happy when he puts his feet on the soil of his motherland.

In reply to a question about whether Pakistan will help Iraq restore its contacts with the rest of the world, the prime minister said Pakistan and other countries should work to ensure the territorial integrity and independence of Kuwait, so that post-Gulf War conditions can reach a logical conclusion. Pakistan has maintained traditional relations with Iraq, and we want to restore our ties in accordance with the UN resolutions and the international situation that emerged after the Gulf War. We will do all this within the limits set by the United Nations. Vital nations always take care of their nationals no matter which part of the world they live in. They provide assistance to their nationals whenever they find themselves surrounded by difficulties or problems and do not rest until their problems are solved. They consider this a matter of national ego and honor and are ready to place everything at stake to mitigate their suffering. It is not possible for them to ignore their citizens. There are numerous examples to show that a nation has either declared war against or severed all ties with other countries in order to have one or two of its citizens released. The present government has set a good example in this respect. It has enhanced the prestige of the country and

the nation at the international level. Within the country, it has brought relief and comfort to the families whose relatives had been separated from them and nobody had ever thought of their release and repatriation.

We already had diplomatic ties with Iraq and now an element of warmth has been added to them. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has referred to the limitations and restrictions imposed by the United Nations, which we need to observe in view of our commitment to the world body. Nonetheless, Pakistan can certainly play an effective role in restoring Iraq's ties with the rest of the world and it must do so. Normalization of Iraq's ties with the international community will create a sort of stability in the entire region and will help establish and promote international contacts on the basis of mutual respect. Iraq's participation will prove particularly useful in efforts toward achieving the collective objectives of the Islamic countries.

Addressing a news conference on his return from Baghdad, Asif Ali Zardari disclosed that the Iraqi Government is pleased with our humanitarian gesture. Iraq was in great need of the medicines we provided. Several people have died in Iraq because of a shortage and nonavailability of medicines and the common people are facing serious difficulties finding food and medicines as a result of restrictions imposed by the United Nations. Asif Ali Zardari said that he had the impression that Iraq would have been destroyed, like Bosnia, as a result of 120,000 tons of bombs that were dropped on that country during the Gulf War, but the Iraqis have rebuilt everything in just two years. It has been confirmed from other sources as well that Iraq has erased all signs of destruction just one year after the war, intentionally leaving a few places in their ruined state as war memorials. No other areas bear any sign of destruction caused by the war. Zardari said that the Government of Iraq has requested that Pakistan send medicines. The request should be considered sympathetically and an appeal should be made to the United Nations to lift restrictions on the supply of medicines and foodstuffs to Iraq on humanitarian grounds. Pakistan's efforts in this context will certainly bear fruit. As for the dispatch of medicines, there is no restriction in this regard.

Pakistan and Iraq enjoy age-old ties. They have interacted and cooperated with each other under various agreements and, hence, a close and harmonious relationship must be established between them. Iraq is full of oil wealth and can provide oil to Pakistan on concessional terms. Trade between the two countries can also prove mutually beneficial. Anyhow, as stated by the prime minister, Pakistan's ties with Iraq can be restored only within the limits set by the United Nations. Iraq appreciates Pakistan's humanitarian gesture. Pakistan should also appreciate Iraq's goodwill gesture and thus the two countries should once again become each other's helper and supporter and prove a source of strength for the Islamic world.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Leader Urges Eastern Voters To Disrupt Election

BK1502141894 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil
3 Feb 94 p 9

[Text] G.G. Kumar Ponnambalam (Junior), the leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress [ACTC], has appealed to the voters in Eastern Province and Vavuniya District to go to the polling stations in the morning and to cast invalid ballots. In a statement he says:

For various reasons, the ACTC does not welcome the scheduled local elections in the north and the east. The northeastern region is still a war zone. Many voters have deserted their homes and are living as refugees outside the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The list of voters is incomplete as a result. Proclaiming themselves members of parties and independent groups, the pro-government Tamil groups are still living in those areas. They have been harassing innocent Tamil citizens. All of these factors will impede the holding of free and fair elections.

The ACTC strongly believes that the government's stubborn insistence on holding elections in spite of all these objections does not reflect its good intentions to establish a representative government. This is an insidious attempt to tell the world that the situation has become normal and that peace has returned to the north and east, in order to hold a referendum there.

Every Tamil citizen knows that the situation in the northeast is not conducive to elections. Therefore, if any Tamil citizen extends any assistance toward this venture, he should be considered an accessory to the government conspiracy.

For these reasons, the ACTC has decided not to be a party to the disinformation campaign. We appeal to the Tamil people in the north and east to go to the polling stations early in the morning to present their indignation, protests, and objections. We make this appeal in

order to prevent the impersonation of genuine Tamil voters and the creation of a wrong impression for the rest of the world.

The ACTC strongly condemns any Tamil party that makes an appeal for support of candidates favoring the merger of the north and east, as that would be contrary to the goal of opposing the elections. Besides, such a move would also justify a referendum on the merger of the north and east.

Security Forces Destroy LTTE Trincomalee Base

BK1502141594 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT
15 Feb 94

[Text] A key LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] base in Trincomalee area was overrun by the security forces in a major offensive. The base identified as the wing base of the terrorists and situated north of Trincomalee and to the west of Nilaveli area was overrun and destroyed without much resistance from the terrorists, according to a senior military officer in the East. The terrorists put up a token resistance and withdrew at the approach of our troops supported by the Air Force, the officer said.

Several soldiers, including Special Forces personnel, were involved in the offensive codenamed (Wale Sumana), named after one of the giants in the army of Sri Lanka's ancient King (Vettigamono), which was launched late last week amidst much secrecy. The number of casualties incurred by the terrorists before their withdrawal from the area was not known, but the Army had a single casualty from an antipersonnel mine. Soldiers recovered mines, about 100 kilos of explosives, food, and other items from the terrorist base which comprised about 15 bunkers, 10 huts, a lecture room, a (sewing) center, stores, and a dental clinic. (Wale Sumana) is the first major combined offensive to be launched by the security forces since the assuming of command by the Army commander, Lieutenant General Gerry de Silva, and also the first in 1994.